

Striking miners jailed for setting fire to NCB buses

Nine striking miners and a farmworker were jailed yesterday for setting fire to five National Coal Board buses used to take working miners through picket lines.

Mr Richard Inglis, for the prosecution, told Derby Crown Court that the men had been drinking together at a club in New Houghton, near Mansfield, in August.

Then they went to the premises of J Thompson Engineering, at Plesley Vale, Derbyshire, where five buses were splashed with petrol and set alight. The vehicles were destroyed and damage was estimated at £25,000; and £1,000 damage was done to the premises.

Judge Woods said: "The community from which you come will condemn what you did. None of you made any attempt to inform the fire brigade of what was happening."

All the accused, who committed the offence while living in a mining village of New Houghton at the time, David Gaunt, aged 18, was jailed for three years; Kevin Beal, aged 21; Steven Goodall, aged 22, a farmworker; David James, aged 21; Paul Jones, aged 21; Ian Nesbitt, aged 33; David Mason, aged 19; Peter Pearson, aged 24 and Philip Sterland, aged 18, were all jailed for two and a half

years. Gaunt was said to have taken the petrol.

All the miners were employed at Shirebrook colliery, Derbyshire.

Two months after fire severely damaged the £40,000 home of Mr Stuart Spencer, a working miner, the police have not uncovered any direct evidence to link with striking miners.

But at least two people, a striker and a woman, have been reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions under the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875 for besetting the bungalow, in Waggon Lane, Upton, near Pontefract, West Yorkshire, three days before the blaze.

The blaze occurred while Mr Spencer and his family were living elsewhere after receiving threats following his decision to return to work as a ventilation engineer at Wheldale colliery, near Castleford.

The coal board confirmed yesterday that it intended to pay the cost of rebuilding the home because the house was insured as Mr Spencer had fallen behind with his payments during the strike.

The Yorkshire board is to underwrite the losses of miners who return to work. "As far as we're concerned they've been loyal to us and we will be loyal to them."

Dispute over scale of return to work

There was sharp disagreement yesterday between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers in Scotland over the scale of the return to work after the Christmas and New Year break.

According to the coal board, another 120 miners returned to pits for the first time since the strike began 10 months ago, bringing the total in Scotland to 2,678 working miners.

At Bilston Glen, the largest pit and the centre of the return to work in Scotland, a thousand men are now said to be working. At dawn a few pickets were waiting as the working miners drove through the picket lines in cars and in buses without incident.

The coal board said it was pleased with the result but the NUM said the figures were a figment of the board's imagination.

Mr Michael McGahey, vice-president of the union, said it remained determined to win the struggle. He was with 14 Labour

MPs on the picket line at Polkemmet colliery in West Lothian which is threatened with flooding.

A union spokesman said that the massive drift back to work that the coal board had hoped for had not materialised and that the number going to work at Bilston Glen was 100 fewer than before the Christmas break. Any return to work at Polkemmet was because of miners turning up to qualify for redundancy payments because of the uncertain future for the colliery, he said.

The coal board has appointed Mr Anthony Hewitt, aged 48, an accountant, to create new opportunities and jobs for redundant miners in areas where unemployment is already high.

Mr Sidney Vincent, the Lancashire miners' leader criticized last month for taking a six-day holiday in Tenerife, won a vote of confidence from his union's area executive yesterday. Letters, page 11

Study backs birth control for teens

Teenage girls who attend family-planning clinics are not promiscuous and there should be no restrictions on prescribing contraceptives to them, according to the findings of a newly-published study.

Girls who go to clinics are likely to be working or in full-time education rather than unemployed, and to see their sexual relationship as serious and steady, says Mrs Jean Tobia, a hospital consultant, who studied 100 such girls.

"There is no place for restricting or imposing con-

ditions for prescriptions of effective contraceptives to this predominantly responsible group of sexually-active teenagers," says Mrs Tobia, a consultant of genito-urinary medicine at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth.

Detailed sexual history was obtained from 100 girls, seven of them under 16, attending a family-planning clinic as new patients from January 1979. They were followed up for an average of 30 months.

When the study ended, in June 1983, the group was found

Russia slow to honour promises to Kinnock

By Richard Dowden

Mr Neil Kinnock is angry over the slow response of the Soviet authorities to implement promises made to him on human rights cases, his personal assistant, Mr Charles Clarke, said yesterday. He added that as soon as the Labour leader returns from Central America he will seek a meeting with the Soviet Ambassador.

Of about 30 human rights and family reunion cases raised by Mr Kinnock during his visit to Moscow in November, the Soviet government has acted on only two despite promises of positive action on five cases. Mr Kinnock was also promised that decisions would be made on a further seven cases, but he has still not been told.

According to Mr Clarke, Mr Kinnock held "full and frank" discussions on the cases with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Politburo member, during his visit to London.

Mr Clarke said that in one of the cases raised by Mr Kinnock, the person for whom he had requested an exit visa was now in Britain, and in another a prisoner had been transferred from prison to internal exile.

In a third case the mother and grandmother of a Russian émigré living in Britain were refused an exit visa after the Russians had promised a positive response.

Mr Oleg Pionov, who came to Britain in 1973 and now lives in Ilford, Essex, said yesterday that his mother Riasa, aged 64, and his grandmother, Olga, nearly 87, had been trying to obtain an exit visa to join him since 1979. His mother is completely crippled by Parkinson's disease and is cared for by his grandmother in a Moscow flat.

The authorities rejected their visa application last summer and have twice refused their appeals, the second time in December after Mr Kinnock had raised their case.

It is understood that their case was also raised by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, during Mr Gorbachev's visit.

Forty years on: Mr Peter Locke, a Second World War pilot from Wigan, now living in Canada photographed yesterday with Mr Seamus Cane who, when he was 11, raised the alarm when Mr Locke's Wildcat aircraft crashed in Ballinerry Lough, Northern Ireland, from where it was recovered last year (top).

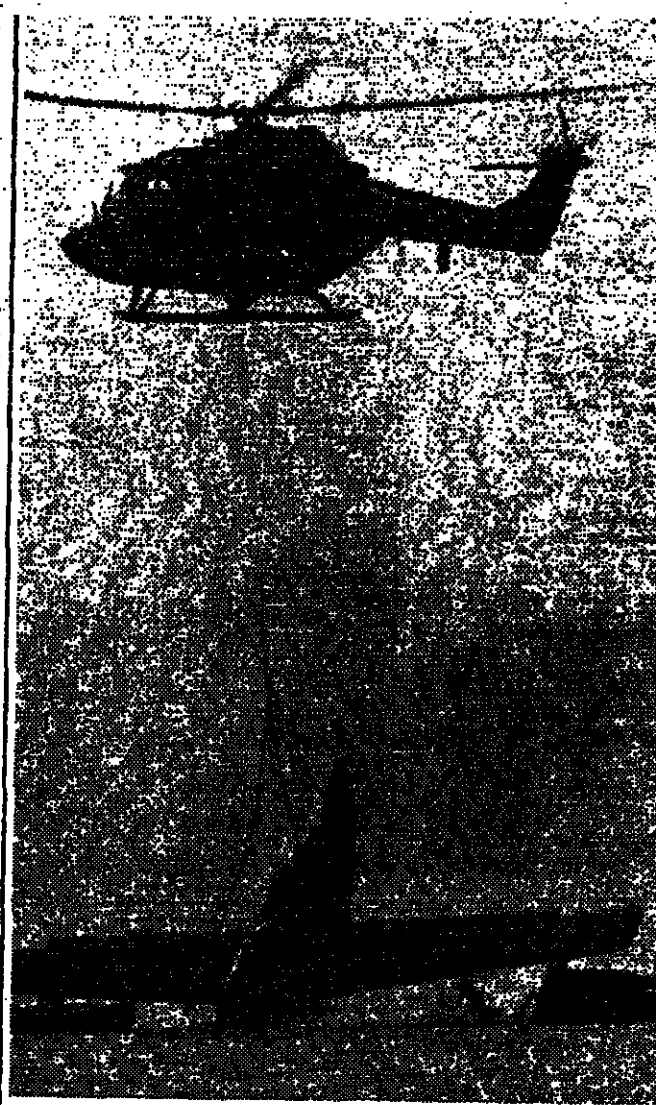
The Queen top TV attraction

The Queen's Christmas Day message was the most watched programme on British television during the holiday, attracting more than 27 million viewers, nearly 18 million of them on BBC1.

But ITV dominated Christmas television, winning 50 per cent of the peak time audience over Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The BBC had the lion's share of viewers on Christmas Day, principally through the popularity of the film *Mary Poppins*, but 46 per cent of the audience overall with both channels.

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Reparation order likely for courts

The Home Office plans to fund four schemes for reparation by offenders to victims as an experiment with a view to including nationwide new measures in a criminal justice Bill.

The Government is considering making a reparation order available to the courts as a separate sanction, so that offenders can be brought face to face with the human consequences of their crimes.

The experiments being planned will help to work out practical details of the schemes. One issue is the extent to which offenders should do reparation work for the victims they have wronged, or whether there might be a reparation corps locally, which an offender would join on sentence.

The idea of a reparation order in its own right reflects the concern of Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, for the victims of crime.

A Criminal Justice Bill has been planned for this Parliament. It will also enable the Government to carry out its intention of giving courts more effective powers to deprive criminals of their profits.

Three forthcoming private member's Bills are to be backed by the Government. One is the Controlled Drugs (Penalties) Bill, which would increase from 14 years to life the maximum penalty for trafficking in dangerous drugs such as heroin.

The others are the Sexual Offences Bill, introduced by Miss Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth Drake, and the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Bill, which would ban the sale of glue-sniffing kits to people under 18.

Drive to raise milk output

Milk production in England and Wales is nearly 10 per cent down on last year and nearly 3 per cent below the quota set by the EEC, according to the Milk Marketing Board (our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

The board, which has spent the past nine months advising farmers how to come to terms with quotas, is urging them to boost production. Output needs to be increased by 261 million litres between now and the end of March, to avoid the risk of Britain being allocated a still smaller quota in the next round.

Man on bomb plot charge

Peter Thomas Lynch, aged 45, held since New Year's eve under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, was yesterday charged with unlawfully and maliciously conspiring to cause an explosion in the United Kingdom.

Mr Lynch, from Runcorn Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, was remanded in custody until Friday when he appeared before magistrates in Liverpool.

Speeding car left police in a blur

Brian Garvey, director of an electronics company, who reached one of the highest speeds recorded on the M5 - 153mph in a Porsche - was banned from driving for six months and fined £250 by magistrates at Taunton Somerset, yesterday. He had denied the offence, and said another Porsche was responsible.

Mr Richard Blake, for the prosecution, said Garvey, of Ashley Road, Walton-on-Thames, travelled so fast that police were unable to read his number plate.

Court hearing will test pay pact for surrogate mothering

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The court hearing on Friday over the future of Baby C will be the first test of the legality of a commercial surrogate mothering contract.

The issue, described by lawyers as a "legal minefield", has never been fully aired in Britain although there have been several related cases in the United States.

As the law in Britain stands however, lawyers predict that the courts would be most unlikely to uphold the legality or validity of the contract or agreement between the surrogate mother and the child's natural father. This agreement is effectively being challenged by the local authority.

The issue has been complicated by the fact that money was involved, and the surrogate mother agreed to be artificially inseminated and bear the child for £6,500. The agency which arranged the deal is due to receive a similar sum.

Had no payment been made, and both parties co-operated, the baby's adoption by the father and stepmother could have been a straightforward procedure, according to Miss Diana Parker, a solicitor writing in the journal *Family Law*. As it is, there is the question of possible illegal acts.

The case raises several issues: the procedure adopted by the local authority in successfully seeking a "place of safety order" for the baby girl; the rights, if any, of the natural father and the steps he can take to establish any claim; and the question of breaches of the criminal law.

Lawyers yesterday criticized the "place of safety" order, obtained under the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 as inappropriate, and possibly illegal. The order was granted at a private hearing, and a reason for it has not been published.

Professor Michael Freeman, reader in law at University College London, said that in his view it was unlikely that any of the necessary conditions for such an order, such as that the child was in moral danger of being ill-treated or neglected, had been satisfied.

Another academic, Mr John Hall, family law lecturer and fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, said he found the order "slightly surprising" and that a better course of action would have been to make the baby a ward of court.

Any decision involving the child, such as its removal by the natural father and his wife, would then need the High

Court's specific authority, he said.

He added that normally a child which was the subject of legal proceeding would not be identified.

If the juvenile court on Friday discharges the place of safety order and makes the baby a ward of court, the Official Solicitor could become involved. Even if the father is granted custody, the Official Solicitor might be required to keep an eye on its upbringing until the age of 18.

The Official Solicitor is an officer of the Supreme Court who can be called upon to protect the interests of children. Alternatively the court might put the child in the care of the local authority.

Court proceedings over the baby's future will raise the question of the natural father's rights. Under present law, the child has been born illegitimate and all parental rights are vested solely in the surrogate mother. Those rights cannot be given away by agreement, and the only course is to apply for adoption, or in the case of the father, to apply for custody or access.

But the father, who probably never contemplated having to go through complex legal proceedings to secure his rights, faces a plethora of difficulties: any application by him or his wife for adoption could fall foul of the Adoption Act 1953, under which it is a criminal offence to pay for an adopted child.

"The father has no rights in law," Mr Hall said. "At most he is the putative father of an illegitimate child, and all he can do is apply for custody which the court may or may not grant."

If the natural mother objects, the courts would be unlikely to back the father's claim. In the only English case on the issue in 1978 a prostitute who agreed to bear a man's child for him and his future wife subsequently refused to release the child. The father applied for access. This was granted by the court but the decision was later overturned by the Court of Appeal.

There is secondly the question of a possible common law offence of baby-selling. Miss Parker says: "So long as money changes hands in connection with the custody of children, there must be a risk that a common law offence of baby-selling could be discovered and revived."

Girls 'taken on squalid adventure'

Two girls aged 12 were abducted to Ireland on a rough, uncomfortable and squalid "adventure" by two men they met in a London amusement arcade, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

A massive police hunt was launched in Britain and Ireland after Denise Bezzat and Emma Bishop went missing last May.

They were found five days later in Co Galway, their hair cut like boys to escape detection, hiding behind a wall. They had lived in a roofless forest hut and scavenged for food.

With them were two men accused of abducting them, an amusement arcade manager Leslie Loates, aged 41, of Holloway Road, Islington, north London, and Kevin Maher, aged 25, unemployed, from Portlanning, Irish Republic. Both men deny child-stealing and abduction.

Mr Graham Boal, for the prosecution, said that a possible clue to Boal's behaviour was that he had daughters of his own whom he had not seen for five years.

Mr Boal said the two girls were among the most frequent young visitors to Loates' arcade in Holloway Road. Loates lived above with Maher.

The hearing continues.

Black magic blamed for church theft

Consecrated communion bread has been stolen from a medieval church in London only five miles away from the church which was desecrated by vandals believed to be devil worshippers last week.

A tabernacle, containing about 30 wafers, which the devout hold to be the actual Body of Christ, was wrenched from behind the altar of St Pancras Old Church and removed through a high window, from which metal bars had been forced.

"There is no doubt that whoever took it knew exactly what they were looking for," Father Philip Dyson, the parish priest, said yesterday. "We are absolutely convinced that this is the work of Satanists. Tonight is, in the old calendar, the feast of Christmas. It is also the full moon. It is the exact time for a Black Mass, for which consecrated hosts are essential."

Last Wednesday vandals broke into St James's Church, in Friern Barnet, and inverted many of the sacred images. Attempts to break open the tabernacle containing the reserved sacrament failed. In St Pancras crowbars were used to remove the entire repository.

Waste disposal company challenges accusation

The Re-Chem waste disposal company has challenged the competency of a charge against it of contravening a section of the Control of Pollution Act (1974), at its plant in Bonnybride, Surlinghamshire.

Mr Hugh Donald, solicitor for the Southampton-based company, said at Falkirk sheriff court yesterday that it was challenging the competency of the nature of the complaint on the grounds that the regulations on which it was based had not been brought into legal effect.

The company had earlier denied a charge of contravening

a condition of its site licence by the releasing of odorous gases during the transfer of liquid waste, and producing a nuisance to the neighbourhood around the plant on July 25 last year.

The charge had been brought under Section 6 (3) of the Control of Pollution Act (1974). Since the date of the alleged offence, the plant has closed its incineration operation and is being used only for storage.

Sheriff Albert Sheehan continued the case until February 12 for legal debate, noting that it was "clearly a case of some public interest, especially locally."

Whitehall job aid for Healey

By David Cross

Mr Denis Healey, the Labour Party's spokesman on foreign affairs, was given a helping hand by the Foreign Office to become the London correspondent of a Norwegian newspaper, according to government documents just released under the 30-year rule.

The papers from the Foreign Office file show that Whitehall was well pleased with his intervention. A 1954 letter signed by Mr William Barker, counsellor in Oslo, to Mr Jack Nicolls, an assistant under-secretary in the Foreign Office in London, said that it was "valuable to have a Labour voice from Britain which does not always echo the party line on foreign affairs."

At the time Mr Healey was Labour MP for south-east Leeds. But, while acknowledging his contributions to *Arbeiderbladet*, a left-wing newspaper in Oslo, until he joined a Labour cabinet in 1964, he says that he was unaware of any help from Sir William Barker, who eventually became an assistant under-secretary before his retirement, said yesterday that he did not remember the contents of the letter.

Nevertheless, it would have been "the most natural thing" in the world for the Norwegian government to have sought an opinion from the Foreign Office on Mr Healey's qualifications as a newspaper correspondent. At the time relations between the British and Norwegian governments were "extraordinarily close," Sir William said.

Woman duped fiancé with fantasies

Julie Smith, aged 28, was imprisoned yesterday for 18 months at York Crown Court on charges of false pretences, only months after completing a 12-month sentence for passing a worthless cheque.

The court heard that Smith had two failed marriages and two children. She had duped a butcher named Graham Pearce, into believing she was an architect, who owned a £100,000 farm and also that she was dying of cancer.

Mr Pearce became infatuated with her, proposed to her and showered her with gifts, taking her on holiday. She was arrested in Jersey, with her fiancé by Yorkshire detectives who had followed a trail of bouncing cheques.

Solicitor dismissed by city

Mr Frank Feeley, Glasgow City Councils' chief solicitor was suspended for five years by the Law Society of Scotland yesterday and was later dismissed from his £17,500 a year post.

The society said that its disciplinary tribunal investigated irregularities in two private conveyancing transactions Mr Feeley carried out. It did not involve council work.

Mr Steve Hamilton, the city council's chief executive, said: "Since he can no longer operate as a solicitor he can no longer be employed by us."

Mr Feeley, aged 39, was responsible for handling the legal side of contracts involving millions of pounds. He joined the council in 1964 and was given time off to attend university courses to attain a law degree.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

One question will dominate the thoughts of ministers when the House of Commons resumes tomorrow. Will their rebellious mood be in such a rebellious mood as they were before the recess? Or will their spirits have been soothed and chastened by the company of their families and a few sharp words from their constituency supporters?

The propensity to revolt before Christmas was remarkable. Conservative rebels forced the Government to change its policy on student grants and to delay further consideration of the Civil Aviation Bill. They were only narrowly defeated in the attempt to replace the Greater London Council with another directly elected body for London, and gravely embarrassed the Government over housing cuts. Beneath these specific grievances there has been the rumbling of a deeper discontent over unemployment.

The remarkable feature of the rebellions is that they came from so many different sections of the party. It was not just the senior sours or the confirmed wags expressing themselves again.

The most favoured explanation is that the experience of the past few months bears out Mr Francis Pym's dictum that large majorities are not good for governments. I share that view, but I do not believe it is the sole reason for the new mood. Two other factors need to be taken into account as well.

Parliament taken for granted

I do not believe that a legislature can ever fulfil the role of the executive in the constructive development of policy. Whenever a legislature becomes too powerful it cripples the process of government.

That was what happened in the United States after the fall of Mr Richard Nixon when what was known as the "imperial presidency" was in disrepute. The power of the office had been abused, so it was mistakenly assumed that the office was too powerful.

But the danger of too strong a legislature does not exist in Britain today. The problem here is that for many years Parliament has been too weak. It has been taken for granted by successive governments, so that policy-making has been based on too narrow a dialogue.

If parliament becomes more assertive that is inconvenient for ministers. It makes for less tidy government. The compromises reached within government departments cannot automatically be implemented. But there is a positive value in Parliament exercising a discriminating judgement upon government proposals.

There has been a steady increase in the number of careerist MPs over the past 30 years. I do not use the term disparagingly. Most of the great figures in British political history devoted themselves single-mindedly to politics. But there were always in the past a good many members who were not looking for office. For them the prestige and interest of being an MP were enough.

Their numbers, however, have been dwindling. More and more MPs these days have come into Parliament to help run the country. They have often had to give up promising careers elsewhere and if they do not get office they feel that it has not been worth it. Yet the laws of parliamentary arithmetic dictate that most of them, will be disappointed when their party has an overwhelming majority.

Frustration on the backbenches will be all the greater when political management is inept. Time and again one hears the complaint that the Government is out of touch with its followers. "They do not listen to us", is the accusation that is repeatedly levelled at ministers.

It will require a considerable change of style on the part of the Government if the conditions that provoked rebellion before Christmas are no longer to be there. But what if this greater assertiveness of Conservative MPs does continue? Will it be damaging to the cause of good government?

It means that whatever objections there may be to a particular project are more likely to be heard before the legislation is passed. There is a greater chance of correcting mistakes before they are entrenched in law.

Automatic rebellion against whatever a government may propose is indeed disruptive. But a selective readiness to revolt by back-benchers who have not been convinced by the argument helps to make ministers more politically sensitive. This is something for which this Government ought to be grateful.

Register of MPs' interests: 2 Middle East dominates sponsored trips

The eagerness with which foreign governments are willing to foot the bills for MPs' travel often reflects the delicacy of their international reputation; their need to win friends in foreign parliaments.

South Africa, the Middle East, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Sri Lanka and Turkey all spent money last year entertaining British MPs in the hope that they would be impressed by the strength of their case or cause.

The Register of Members' Interests says that such travel has to be logged in cases of "overseas visits relating to or arising out of membership of the House where the cost of any such visit has not been wholly borne by the member or by public funds."

The Middle East accounts for the bulk of last year's newly-registered overseas visits, but four of the nine trips were registered by one MP, Mr Antony Marlow, Conservative, Northampton North.

Mr Marlow declares that he was "sponsored by the Arab League" when he met "Y. Arifai" in February; in March he went to the Lebanon "at the

invitation of the Druze community"; in July he attended an International Peace Conference in Baghdad, "sponsored by Iraq"; and in October he visited the West Bank and Gaza "sponsored by the Arab League".

Two other visits to Arab countries were registered by Mr Gerald Bermingham, Labour, St Helens South, who went to Libya in August "as a guest of Liberation"; and Mr Keith Speed, Conservative, Ashford, who visited Morocco in February under the "auspices" of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

On the other side of the Middle East divide, Israel sponsored a visit by three Conservative MPs last May-June. They were Mr John Butterfill, Bournemouth West, Dr Michael Clark, Rothford, and Mr Michael Latham, Rutland and Melton.

Yesterday, Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent, analysed some of the new-found business interests registered by MPs for the new Register of Members' Interests, to be published next month. Today, he turns to MPs' travels, at others' expense.

South Africa appears to have been the next biggest spender, for although it was visited by five MPs, two of them went to Zambia at business expense.

Two MPs paid for by the South African government were Mr Christopher Cope, Conservative, Southampton, Ichen, who went in January-February as a member of a Bow Group party which was the guest of the South African Foreign Affairs Department.

Mr Eric Forth, Conservative, mid-Worcestershire, who visited for a fortnight in August was also sponsored by the same department. Sir Patrick Wall, Conservative, Beverley, who went in May, says simply that he went as "chairman of the British South African parliamentary group" and the register does not reveal who paid.

The visits to Hong Kong and Turkey would appear to have been more carefully targeted by

the sponsors. In the case of Hong Kong two of the visitors were senior whips and Turkey sponsored three former ministers in the Conservative government.

Mr John Cope, deputy Government Chief Whip, went to Hong Kong for a week last April "as guest of the Hong Kong government". He was followed in September, for 10 days, by Mr Ian Lang, another government whip, and in October by Mr Neville Trotter, another guest of the Hong Kong government.

Sir Geoffrey Bisberg, a former parliamentary under secretary and MP for Hampstead and Highgate, visited Turkey "as a guest of the Political and Social Studies Foundation" in April, and in June Sir Peter Blaker, the former Foreign Office minister and MP for Blackpool South, and Mr Jerry Wiggin, former Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Armed Forces and MP for Weston-super-Mare, went as guest of the Turkish government.

Concluded

Merger of London's art colleges would create powerhouse in Europe

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A merger of eight London art and design colleges to form one powerhouse, to be called the London Institute, is proposed in a draft report from a steering group set up by the Inner London Education Authority.

The merger, which is being discussed, would create almost certainly the premier art and design institution in Europe and possibly the most powerful art institute in the world. The authority's further and higher education sub-committee is to decide about its creation on February 13.

The proposal is to merge Camberwell, St Martin's, Central and Chelsea art colleges with the London colleges of fashion, print and furniture, and with the College of Distributive Trades. That would bring together 3,000 to 10,000 students and hundreds of lecturers.

It is envisaged that The London Institute will be set up next January and that it will decide how it will organize itself whether, for example, it will continue to operate on its present college sites, how many

departments will remain and which lecturers will be kept on. Mr Philip Hunter, deputy education officer for the authority in charge of further, higher and continuing education, emphasized that the merger was not about cutting art and design education in London.

The authority hopes the new institute will create opportunities by, for instance, investing in computer-aided design. That cannot be done on any scale in the present system.

"We are about thrusting vigour, meeting the needs of the 1980s and 1990s," Mr Hunter said. "We have to gear ourselves up so that the employers of London look to the institute as a powerhouse and so that the people who live and work in London look to it for the courses they need."

"With a really powerful set-up like this it is more likely that we could protect ourselves from cuts. But as needs are identified there will have to be changes and that will mean re-ordering priorities. The nature of those changes

worries the National Association for Teachers in Further and Higher Education. The London region of the association insists that the changes will mean job losses, and it wants the authority to allow three extra months for consultation.

"The authority is steamrolling the whole thing," the association's London region spokesman said. "This is rationalization."

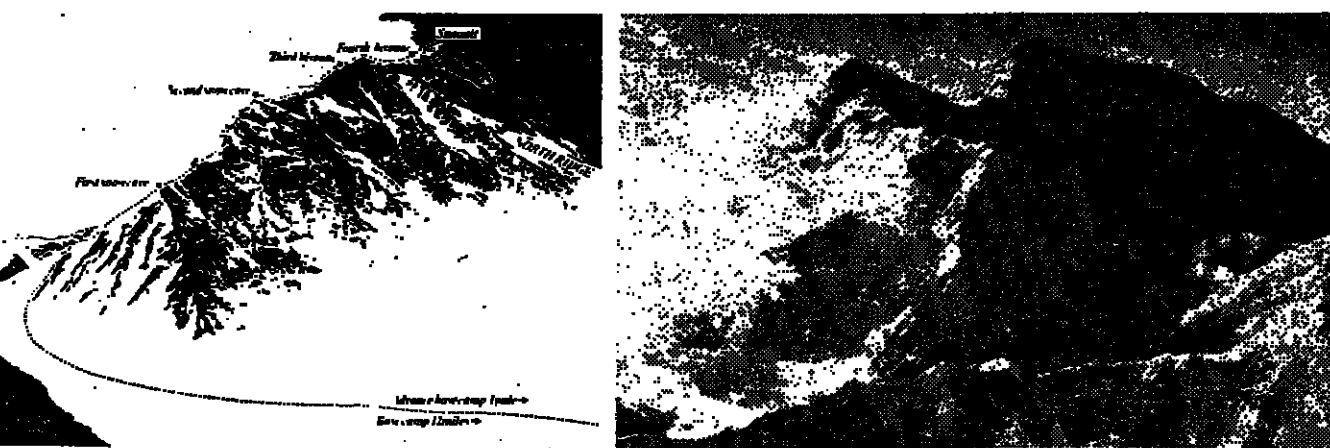
The national advisory body for local authority higher education, which disburses funds to polytechnics and colleges, is putting the squeeze on art and design nationally and art college closures are being suggested.

The report says that each of the present eight colleges would keep their names and identity, but would also use the title, The London Institute. It proposes a governing body of 36, with each college having five representatives.

The other governors would be appointed by the authority and the institute.



Ready to go: Mrs Julie Tullis being supported yesterday by members of the expedition (left to right): Mr John Tinker, Mr David Bicknell, Mr Chris Watts, Mr Andy Greig and Mr Terry Dailey (Photograph: Harry Kerr).



The unclimbed ridge: The route the expedition will take after leaving the base camps and the north-east ridge

Woman in bid to conquer Everest ridge

By Patricia Clough

A British mother of two could be the first person to climb Everest at 29,028 feet the world's highest mountain, by its most difficult route.

Mrs Julie Tullis, aged 45, of Tunbridge Wells, has been chosen as a member of a 16-strong British expedition which this spring will tackle the two-and-a-half-mile route at the north-east ridge, the last route yet to be conquered.

Mrs Tullis, who forms a high altitude film team with Mr Karl Diemberger, an Austrian who will also be in the party, has twice climbed almost to the summit of the world's second highest mountain, the K2.

Mr Mal Duff of Edinburgh,

the expedition leader told a press conference yesterday that if Mrs Tullis stood up to the altitude and strain as well as the others there was no reason why she should not be one of the two climbers eventually chosen to tackle the summit itself.

Mrs Tullis, whose husband Terry teaches mountaineering and who has two sons aged 20 and 22, said women often had a slight disadvantage at high altitudes because of water retention at certain points in the menstrual cycle but this did not affect her. She was looking forward to the climb because "mountaineering is a kind of addiction".

The group expects to fly to Peking on March 6 and to travel through Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, to establish base camp on a desolate plateau at about 17,000 feet, passing three times on the way to acclimatise.

With the help of 60 yaks they will move forward to establish an advance base camp from which to tackle the ridge. From there, the route will take in four steps, two in snow caves and two in bivouacs, and three extremely difficult pinnacles which will involve, Mr Duff said, advanced technical climbing.

At some stages, the party would have to use oxygen, he

said. Whether they manage to conquer the summit would depend to a great extent on the weather. Although the period between March and June was most favourable for climbing, there could be temperatures of minus 35°C and winds of up to 100 miles an hour. Nevertheless, he said, "they've got a very good chance".

The expedition, which will involve logistics such as 35,000 meals from 94 different suppliers and 59 different items of special clothing and equipment as well as one and a half tons of gear, will be sponsored by Pilkington Brothers, the glass manufacturers, for about £80,000.

Hearing told rabbi's jokes went too far

By Sheila Beardall

A rabbi's sexual innuendoes during services and his attempts to distance himself from his flock led council members of Southgate Progressive Synagogue, north London, to dismiss him, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday.

The tribunal was told that although Rabbi Clifford Cohen, aged 36, was a great entertainer with a ready wit, he did not know when to stop. The hearing into Rabbi Cohen's claim that he was unfairly dismissed started yesterday amid an atmosphere of embarrassment as the synagogue's affairs should be displayed so publicly. It is thought to be the first time a rabbi has been dismissed from one of Britain's 23 progressive synagogues.

Two senior members of the council described how Rabbi Cohen's refusal to visit sick and old people, his comments during services, and difficulties in getting in touch with him eventually led to his dismissal.

Mr Cecil Reese, a vice-presi-

dent of the synagogue and former chairman, said Rabbi Cohen had taken over nine years ago from Rabbi Jacob, whose priority had been contact with the congregation of 800 people.

Rabbi Cohen is a great entertainer, a ready wit and a likeable personality," he said. "But unfortunately it never seemed to occur to him that some things should not be said on some occasions."

"One Friday evening a young girl of nine went to get a glass of wine during the service and she tripped a little. Rabbi Cohen's response was to say: 'One drink and she's anybody's.' This was felt by a lot of people to be completely out of place."

Mr John Metcalf, the council's legal representative, said that at bar mitzvah Rabbi Cohen had commented that through life the young man would learn about "this, that and the other - especially the other."

Mr Reese said the last straw was when Rabbi Cohen moved house and refused to give his telephone answering machine number to most of the council and congregation because he was about to start a four-month sabbatical and did not want to be disturbed.

"It would be a disaster for the rabbi to return to the synagogue."

Mrs Doris Reese, also vice-president and former chairman of the synagogue, complained that Rabbi Cohen left his telephone answering machine switched on even when at home. His excuse was that he went to bed late, and so did not want to be disturbed.

She also had complaints about the readings from the Bible.

The hearing continues today.



Rabbi Cohen: Great entertainer

Blockbuster video prices could rise

By Bill Johnstone

The price of "blockbuster" videos and their overnight rentals could rise by 10 per cent this year if the big film distributors have their way.

Warner, Thorn-Emi and RCA/Columbia want these videos to retail for about £40 instead of the £36 at present. Mr Johnstone, head of marketing services for Thorn-Emi Screen Entertainment said: "The price of top titles has not really altered in the last three years."

The distributors who have been pushing for the price rise for some months are confident that there will be less resistance than in the past from video retailers/renters. The video market has stabilized, allowing local dealers to lift price for the big box office hits to a £2.50 ceiling, a rise of almost £1 on the overnight rental charge.

Not all titles would be more expensive. Differential pricing would need to be introduced with the box office hit films being the most costly.

Film distributors are disturbed that a top quality successful film can be hired overnight for less than the cost of a cinema seat.

There are about 10,000 video tape rental outlets. These include 1,500 television rental outlets, 3,000 video shops and a host of small street video racks. About 8,000 titles are on the market.

Salesmen in high street computer shops advise businessmen on purchases are inadequately trained and very ignorant about the technology, according to a survey of 11 chainstores by Which Computer for its January issue.

Honey sales up as jam declines

By Our Commercial Editor

Britons are eating more honey but spreading less marmalade and jam on their toast according to a survey from Market Assessment Publications.

The report on the spreads market which ranges from preserves and meat or fish pastes to sandwich spreads, such as soft chocolate and peanut butter shows sales have remained practically static in the past five years and were worth £237 million in 1983.

Honey sales have been growing at about 5 per cent a year with £40 million worth now being eaten. The survey says honey is seen as a healthy food and has benefited while jam, marmalade and similar products have suffered.

Marmalade sales have dropped between 12 per cent and 15 per cent since 1979 and at £42 million a year are only marginally more than the honey sector.

The jam market, on which just under £70 million a year, is also in decline. This is because of a reaction to rich, sweet foods and drink, exacerbated by fears about dental health and the expansion of alternative snack and dessert products.

The move away from heavy, dark, sweet foods has particularly hit demand for syrup and treacle with sales down about a quarter since 1978 and an expected further decline of 3 per cent a year. This sector, which includes chocolate spreads and peanut butter, and is worth about £20 million a year.

Sandwich spreads are more popular, attracting annual spending of £7.3 million. Meat and fish spreads sales saw some growth during the recession but are now levelling out at about £45 million in value annually, the survey says. Sales of meat extract spreads, worth around £18 million a year in sales, are likely to decline by up to 2 per cent a year, it is forecast.

Market Assessment Product Group Report on Spreads, Market Assessment Publications, 2 Duncan Terrace, London N1 8BZ: £150.

Doctors in rumpus over kidney man

By Colin Hughes

Doctors at the Churchill hospital, Oxford, were yesterday accused of "playing God" with the life of a kidney patient, after they refused to continue giving him kidney dialysis treatment.

The case of Mr Derek Sage, aged 44, a former psychiatric patient, has roused the anger of the British Kidney Patients Association, which claimed yesterday that many doctors throughout the country are making moral judgements on which lives are worth saving through kidney dialysis.

Dr Des Oliver, head of the Churchill's kidney unit, decided on New Year's Eve to cut off Mr Sage's twice-weekly dialysis because his quality of life was so low that the hospital was "officially keeping him alive".

Mr Sage, who has lived at Simon House, run by the Oxford Cyrenians, for eight years, suffered kidney failure two years ago when being successfully operated on for a brain tumour.

Mr Mike Hall, warden of Simon House, said yesterday that the doctors had decided that Mr Sage was aggressive, uncommunicative, and dirty, and that his place on the kidney treatment list would be better used by someone else.

"They agreed, under protest, to give him some dialysis last Wednesday, but by Saturday

Poll favours retirement for Queen

By Alan Hamilton

Many people believe the Queen should abdicate at some time rather than retain the crown for life, according to an opinion poll published today in Woman magazine.

When the magazine conducted a similar poll in 1978, two-thirds of those questioned were against abdication. Now, 52 per cent believe she should retire at some time. Three per cent thought she should go immediately, 16 per cent when she reaches 60 next year, and 33 per cent some day, but not yet.

Buckingham Palace invariably dismisses such suggestions out of hand. A Palace spokesman said yesterday: "There is absolutely no question of the Queen abdicating; it is quite contrary to the tradition of the monarchy."

The magazine suggests that the change in the readers' attitudes may be a result of the appearance on the royal stage of the Princess of Wales.

However, Woman readers still approve overwhelmingly of the monarchy as an institution, with 85 per cent of those questioned in favour of it, compared with 86 per cent in the 1978 survey. The Queen also remains the most popular member of the Royal Family, with 40 per cent voting for her.

Angela Rippon to leave US job

The former BBC newsreader, Angela Rippon confirmed yesterday that she is leaving her £100,000 (£83,000 a year) job with the Boston television station, WNEV-TV, to return to Britain.

Miss Rippon, aged 40, who joined the station a year ago, will return to Britain at the end of this month, but the BBC denied reports that she is about to rejoin the corporation. A spokeswoman for Miss Rippon's management, IMG, said that she had no job offers in Britain at the moment.

Maxwell award

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of Mirror Group Newspapers, yesterday received the "Gold Joke" trophy award from the Cartoonists Club of Great Britain for being the greatest source of inspiration in the past year.

Police chief said to be on hit list

By Our Crime Reporter

Police are investigating an alleged "assassination list" said to have been drawn up by Irish terrorists and targeted at a number of British security officials including Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside.

The possibility of a threat to targets on the British mainland was passed from Ireland to English officers late last year. One potential victim of what has been seen as a new Provisional IRA bombing campaign is a senior officer in the SAS.

He and other possible victims are said to have been placed on a target list after terrorists began searching for public figures who would not have the tight security which now surrounds VIPs such as ministers.

More authors share in library fees scheme

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The average payment to authors under the Public Lending Right scheme has fallen by £5, £216 because more authors are eligible for payments.

Statistics issued yesterday by the Registrar of Public Lending Right, Mr John Sumson, show the number of authors entitled to earn PLR payments has risen from 28 per cent to 32 per cent of all library borrowings, mainly because of the interest of new authors in the scheme. At the same time, the money available for distribution to authors has risen only marginally, from £1,588,000 to £1,662,000.

Although the payments to individual authors are not disclosed, Mr Sumson confirmed that there has been little change in the tastes of British library goers. The most popular author is still Catherine Cookson, who had 27 titles among the 100 most borrowed books, and other popular writers include Wilbur Smith and Victoria Holt.

The rate payable for each loan will be 9.2p, compared with last year's 1.02p, and 18

Bishop to retire

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Maurice Wood, is to retire on August 26, his sixty-ninth birthday. He is a leading evangelist, having preached abroad and promoted Mr Billy Graham's tours in Britain.

Chemical back in use after safety review

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Methyl isocyanate, the chemical which killed more than 2,000 people at Bhopal in India, was being used in Britain again yesterday for the first time since the disaster.

The Ciba-Geigy company resumed production of herbicides with methyl isocyanate (MIC) at its factory at Grimsby, Humberside, after a five-week review and the introduction of extra safety measures.

The company has restated the storage of its six tons of the chemical and made other detailed changes to its Safety Executive last week. The processing of MIC was suspended at the factory after the leakage of the chemical in Bhopal.

However, Grimsby Borough Council is seeking a ban on the storage of the substance at the factory, which is a mile from a housing estate and the village of Great Coates, and two miles from the centre of Grimsby.

Bogus car rustproofing complaint by firm

The managing director of a car rustproofing company called for urgent measures to protect motorists from unscrupulous firms selling "miracle" rust cures which were as ineffective as their "guarantees".

Mr Sigurd Wilberg, managing director of Dinol UK, which markets the Tuff-Kote Dinol anti-rustproofing system, said: "Anyone can set up as a rustproofing firm, can apply anything from old engine oil to beef dripping, offer a warranty and go out of business after a few months taking a handy profit and leaving the purchaser with no cover, or proper protection."

He has written to Sir Gordon Bowie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, calling for national standards for rustproofing materials similar to those in force in West Germany and Sweden. He says that thousands of motorists have been left with valueless guarantees after the collapse of several rustproofing companies.

The Sale of Goods Act offers the general protection of the law.

Budget hope for falling cigar sales

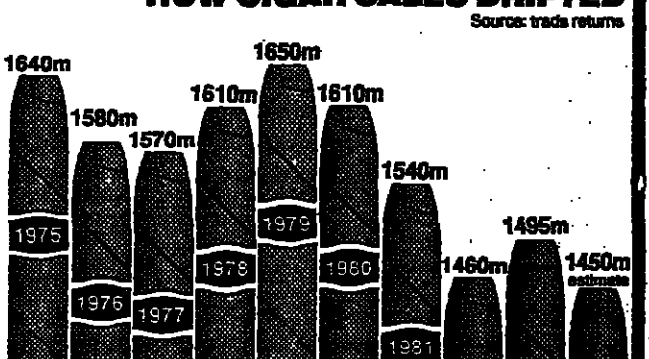
By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Cigar sales, which recovered in 1983 after three years of decline, have taken another tumble in the past year. Manufacturers are also forecasting a further decline in 1985, unless the Chancellor, in the next Budget, proves kinder than in the past few years.

The Christmas sales are still being counted. These usually represent one third of all cigars sold. But it looks as if 1984 cigar sales will be down by about 3 per cent, not much different from the likely outcome of cigarette sales, which are expected to be reduced in 1984 by between 3 per cent and 4 per cent.

Yet cigars had grown in popularity during 1983, when sales were up 2.4 per cent on the year before. The cigar market is less volatile than the cigarettes sector, the biggest influence being the amount of disposable income available for consumers.

But a forecast of a possible 1985 sales decline of about a further 2 per cent comes from Gallaher, Britain's second largest tobacco manufacturer, and part of American Brands. Mr Guy Moreland-Green, Gallaher's general manager for cigars, said: "It depends how far the Chancellor treats the cigar industry more fairly in the next



The biggest sales battle is in the large "whiffs" sector, with brands such as Gallaher's Hamlet and Manikin and Imperial's Panama, Embassy Slims, Grandee and John Player Mild.

The 1984 sales decline has had some impact on the large whiffs sector, according to Mr Moreland-Green. About three quarters of all cigar sales are in this sector. But a 3 per cent sales increase is claimed for Hamlet, Britain's best-selling cigar, accounting for two out of every five cigars sold, including imports.

Reformulation of Manikin, now slimmer and longer has halted a continuous decline in the brand's share during the past 10 years. Sales in 1984 appear to be on a par with 1983.

But competition in the whiffs market, of which Imperial has about a 40 per cent share, is growing. A new Winterman's brand, Mestero, is being test marketed by Imperial.

Gallaher is test marketing a Ritzmaster Royal Dutch Panatella, which is about the same size as Hamlet and Maestro. Gallaher, which distributes Ritzmaster in Britain, has renewed a "stronger presence" with cigars that have the attraction of more exotic labels. Imperial still dominates the minisizes market with brands such as Tom Thumb.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Reagan's team breaks up and gives the right a big headache

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan is suddenly from the day-to-day contact he bereft of the cadre of trusted now enjoys with the White California insiders who have House.

Mr Meese is likely to be given a rocky ride at his Senate confirmation hearing, but the Mr Michael Deaver, chief of appointment is expected to go ahead. Questions about his no longer live on his \$72,000 (£63,000) annual salary and announced that he would become a public relations specialist.

As a White House insider he should have no difficulty commanding a \$200,000 salary. He has long complained about financial stringency, lamenting that he could not even afford to send his children to private school. He was Mr Reagan's television image-maker and was always sent in advance to organize the President's state and official visits around the world, from Windsor Castle to the Great Wall.

Mr Deaver's move follows a similar decision by Mr William Clark, the Interior Secretary. The former judge has been one of the President's closest California friends from the beginning of Mr Reagan's political career.

Nobody expected the resignation. He said he had completed his work in the Government and it was time to go back to his 888-acre barley and cattle ranch in California.

Mr Edwin Meese, the White House counsellor and another long time Reagan friend and adviser, has been nominated by Mr Reagan to become Attorney General. It is a Cabinet post, but it will keep Mr Meese away

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Commission with the weight of Europe on its shoulders



The new European Commission posing for an official photograph on its first day of business in Brussels yesterday. From left: Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana (Italy), Mr Peter Sutherland (the Irish Republic), Mr Nic Mosar (Luxembourg), Mr Willy de Clercq (Belgium), Signor Lorenzo Natali (Italy), Mr Frans Andriessen (Holland), M Jacques Delors (France) the Commission President, Herr Karl-Heinz Marjies (West Germany), Lord Cockfield (Britain), Mr Henning Christopherson (Denmark), M Claude Cheysson (France), Mr Grigoris Varfis (Greece), Herr Alois Pfeiffer (West Germany), Mr Stanley Clinton Davis (Britain).

Peking will not be bullied by superpowers

From Mary Lee Peking

A veteran Chinese diplomat said yesterday that the Soviet Union and the United States were wrong in their past approaches to relations with China.

Mr Zhega Weizher, who served as ambassador in several European countries and Latin America, is director of the Peking-based International Relations Institute.

In the Peking Review, he said: "At one time, the Soviets thought China could develop its economy and contend with the US only with Soviet support. Later the US thought China would be willing to make political concessions in order to import advanced technology for its modernization drive. Both countries were wrong. China cannot be bullied."

Mr Zhega also said that even when Sino-Soviet and Sino-US relations were tense, "the Chinese were not afraid and felt no need to align themselves with either superpower". The cardinal principle in Peking's foreign policy was independence.

"China's door is now open to all kinds of countries," he said, "socialist or capitalist, developed or developing."

Observers regard Zhega's article as a stronger restatement of Peking's non-aligned principle, which was beginning to appear compromised by its open wooing of America corporations for the higher technology the country so badly needs.

Baghdad claims ships hit near Kharg Island

Manama (AP) - Iraq said its aircraft attacked two "large naval targets" yesterday near the Iranian Kharg Island oil terminal. The raids were announced within hours of each other.

Warplanes scored accurate and effectively hits on the targets, Baghdad said. The term "large naval target" usually refers to a tanker.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the attacks from Gulf shipping circles. The last Iranian-announced raid on Gulf shipping on New Year's Eve was not confirmed.

Shipping circles which monitor the movement of traffic in the area, said no distress signals had been picked up. One shipping company executive pointed out that if a vessel had its communications system damaged, confirmation would be available only if another ship sighted it.

Vietnamese tanks smash way into key guerrilla base

From Pichai Nippittavit of AP, Ampil, Cambodia

An armour-led Vietnamese assault by about 1,000 troops attacking from four directions smashed into this key resistance base yesterday, according to Thai military sources and witnesses.

At least 20 guerrillas were killed, part of the base destroyed and some of it occupied by the Vietnamese, who appeared to have the upper hand after a day of fighting, according to intelligence sources in the Thai army's eastern task force.

The Vietnamese laid down a massive artillery barrage before spearheading the assault with tanks. Thai officers said. More tanks - as many as 20 by some accounts - were in action yesterday than on any other single day in six years of fighting on the Thai-Cambodian border.

Major-General Salya Striphen, Thai eastern force commander, told reporters that the defenders destroyed three of the Soviet-supplied T-54 tanks and two M-113 armoured personnel carriers.

I slipped into Ampil at 10 a.m. and watched panicky guerrillas shout "There are tanks coming" and they run away shouting "Let's go, let's go" when armour broke through Ampil's three outer defence rings and roared into the heart of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front headquarters.

Smoke billowed from parts of the camp as the armoured vehicles clanked in, one of them up the camp's main road about 600 yards from the command bunker.

The artillery fire stopped for about 10 minutes each hour, apparently to allow time to adjust and correct their range.

Several other sources said some guerrillas pulled out of Ampil, at least briefly, to seek safety near an anti-tank ditch on the Thai side of the border.

General Salya said the liberation front resisted the initial Vietnamese push.

More than 4,400 Thai civilians were evacuated from the area as stray shells landed across the border.

Ampil, 175 miles east of Bangkok, was the last major liberation front camp still intact until yesterday in Hanoi's latest dry season offensive.

Vietnamese forces have overrun front bases at Nong Chan, Obok, Rithisen and Sok Sonh. Khmer Rouge camps at Nam Yun and Chong Bok were taken on Sunday after two days of resistance, according to Thai officials speaking by telephone from Ubon Ratchathani province.

The strike at Ampil was widely expected since the Vietnamese were celebrating the sixth anniversary of capturing Phnom Penh. Hanoi invaded Cambodia in late 1978 and drove Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge out of Phnom Penh on Jan. 7, 1979.

(Pichai Nippittavit was one of three reporters to have entered the battlefield.)



Map showing the location of Ampil in Cambodia and its proximity to the Thai border.

Split hurts Social Democrats Party searches its soul for credibility

In the second of two articles Michael Binyon in Bonn looks at the opposition Social Democratic Party.

The Social Democrats do not expect to be back in government at the next election in 1987. Indeed barring a major and unforeseen crisis within the centre-right coalition, so sure is the SPD of remaining in opposition that it will not finish the thorough-going overhaul of its policies and structure before 1988.

The topping of the former Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt and the subsequent resounding defeat in the 1983 election, opened ideological splits and divisions which were widened by the painful debate on the deployment of Nato missiles in West Germany.

The party lurched to the left, giving free rein to those who had chafed under the yoke of government responsibility and the crushing authority of Herr Schmidt.

This attempt to recapture the strongholds on the left and re-align its ranks all those opposed to the missiles and the new conservatism in Bonn backed. Not only has the SPD failed to capitalize on Government failures over the past year, but in local elections and opinion polls it has lost even more heavily than the Christian Democrats.

The party's strategy for recovery is based on the reformulation of its principles and the renewal of its cadres. This lengthy self-analysis has already been set in motion. It has been compared with the historic adoption 25 years ago of what has become known as the Godesberg Programme, which signalled the party's acceptance of West Germany as a capitalist country, a member of Nato and a firm ally of the United States.

The Godesberg Programme ended the party's self-imposed confinement behind class and ideological barricades. Some influential SPD members on the left, especially Herr Erhard Eppler, now think this platform itself needs considerable revision, though Herr Willy Brandt, party chairman for over 20 years, thinks it would be a dangerous mistake to narrow the party's appeal to ideologically committed minority groups.

The challenge to the SPD, however, now comes not from the right but from the left - the Greens.

The SPD has an ambivalent attitude to this radical, ecological, pacifist movement that is attracting more voters in every election and setting the pace in many important political fields.

Herr Brandt would like the SPD to build a broad-based consensus "this side of the Christian Democrats", forming a loose alliance with the Greens but keeping them at arms length.

However, the party's right wing, those identified with the Schmidt line, have reasserted



WEST GERMAN POLITICS Part 2



Herr Vogel: Lack of charisma Front runner

themselves after their humiliating defeat over missile deployment, and believe concessions to the Greens would fatally undermine the SPD's appeal to large sections of the middle class, especially to industry and commerce.

And the Greens themselves are now split into two camps - "realists" ready for overtures to the SPD, and "fundamentalists" who want nothing to do with anything that smacks of establishment party politics.

The split was mainly responsible for the breakdown of the "toleration" by the Greens in Hesse of an SPD minority government. In the bitter recriminations that have followed, many in the SPD have been strengthened in believing the Greens will not play by the rules and it is time to take off the kid gloves.

The Greens, evidently surprised by, and unready for, their electoral success, have not yet reached the frontiers of their appeal that would force them to start thinking more seriously about how to translate into effect their slogans and protests.

The Social Democrats also have a problem of leadership. Unlike the CDU, the position of party chairman and candidate for Chancellor has been separate since Herr Brandt's still retains broad appeal among the young, and has been unusually vigorous recently, he is no longer an alternative to Herr Kohl.

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the parliamentary leader defeated by Herr Kohl in 1983, is a fine and sharp speaker in the Bundestag, but he lacks charisma and has been unable to raise or rally the dispirited party. Herr Johannes Rau, capable Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, is much more likely to be the candidate in 1987.

The SPD insisted at its last party congress that it would have to start looking like a credible alternative government if it was to be a proper opposition. At the moment it is neither - a verdict today's voters seem to share.

Concluded

Agent Orange lawyers get \$9.2m

New York (AP) - A federal judge yesterday awarded \$9.2 million (£7.8 million) in fees and expenses to lawyers for the thousands of Vietnam veterans and their families who sued the makers of the wartime herbicide Agent Orange.

District Judge Jack Weinstein also gave his final approval to the \$180 million settlement that was reached on May 7.

Although no procedure has been worked out for distributing the bulk of the fund to veterans, Judge Weinstein said he was persuaded that "a viable plan" for distribution was possible.

South Korean opposition steps up poll pressure

From David Watts, Tokyo

Leaders of the South Korean human rights movement yesterday called on the Government to guarantee the safe return from exile of Mr Kim Dae Jung, a leading dissident, later this month.

As the group of 14 leading churchmen, intellectuals and lawyers met to demand more democratic government it was reported that another dissident had been given a warning that the Government might use force to stop his participation in the launching of a new political party.

Both developments are part of the gathering of political steam in South Korea as opponents of President Chun Doo Hwan prepare for elections in February. The elections are certain to be a severe test for all political elements in the country and for the US Government, which has made it clear it wants Mr Kim to be allowed back into Korea.

The Seoul Government has advised him not to return and said that if he does he will be arrested and jailed to serve the balance of a 22-year term for sedition. Senator Edward Kennedy has said he might accompany Mr Kim on his return.

The spokesman at yesterday's human rights group meeting said the group was discussing a democratic system, not trying to wrest political power. They had called for a free press and the peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula.

The Governments warning was issued to Mr Kim Young Sam, one of 15 political figures still banned from active politics by the Government. A ban on 84 others has been lifted.

At a weekend press conference Mr Kim Young Sam said he would continue his activities despite the threat. He is co-chairman of the newly formed Council for the Promotion of Democracy. It is widely expected that should Mr Kim De Jung return he will be the other co-chairman.

The council is behind the provisionally-named New Korean Democratic Party, which could become a formidable opponent of the Chun Government should it take root.

The new party was registered late last month and is attracting considerable interest with involvement of the two Kims. Work began on setting up local chapters yesterday, with the inauguration of the first in Seoul.

The meeting elected Mr Roh Seung Hwan chairman of the chapter.

The party is hoping to set up 23 chapters by the middle of this month in order to have the legal right to hold a national convention before the elections.

A booking to follow novel prize

Barcelona (AP) - Inspector José de Tomás García planned to give a press conference yesterday after receiving Spain's most important literary prize, the Premio Nadal.

Instead, he spent the morning at the local traffic violations office recovering his car which police colleagues had towed away on Sunday night as he slept after a celebration in the Ritz Hotel.

Inspector de Tomás, aged 41, a policeman in the south-eastern city of Valencia, won the £5,000 prize for his first novel, *On the other side of drugs*.

He first discovered his car was missing when he awoke and stepped out on his balcony. Later, he found the parking ticket where his car should have been.

A Premio Nadal jury member described the inspector's novel as a work by an unknown author characterized by "a perfect blending of knowledge of the milles and narration, using the actual language of the drug underworld".

Señor de Tomás said he had written it to demonstrate the horrors of the world of drugs.

The police chiefs in Barcelona are so delighted that they decided yesterday to promote him.

Hungary: György Krassó

By Caroline Moorehead

A form of restrictive custody, tantamount to social isolation and house arrest, has been imposed on an outspoken Hungarian economist, György Krassó, imprisoned first nearly 30 years ago for his part in the 1956 revolution, but released under an amnesty in 1963.

He may not leave his flat in Budapest between 8pm and 6am he is forbidden to visit hotels, cafes, restaurants, sports centres, cinemas, theatres or railway stations; he is not allowed a telephone and he must permit police to enter and search his flat at any time.

It is more than 10 years since a Hungarian intellectual has been arrested and tried on directly political charges for views expressed in public. In June last year, however, Mr Krassó, a persistent advocate of human rights and freedom of speech, was detained and questioned about an interview he had given to the *Samizdat* magazine *Hirmondó*, on the subject of the imprisonment and execution of the leaders of the revolution.

Although released with only a warning, he was picked up again by police in October, when his flat was raided and large quantities of *samizdat* material confiscated. He was heavily fined.

Under the new restriction imposed in November, Mr Krassó has no right of appeal, since they were laid down under public order regulations by the district police authorities in total violation of the Hungarian Constitution and the Final Act of the Helsinki Agreements, to which Hungary is a signatory.

When his flat was raided and large quantities of *samizdat* material confiscated. He was heavily fined.



Mr Krassó: Thirty years of outspoken opposition.

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Duarte blames Arena for murder of aide

San Salvador (Reuters) - President José Napoleón Duarte of El Salvador has said the murder of his chief government corruption investigator was part of a plot by members of the ultra-right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena).

Señor Duarte made the statement on Sunday night as he left a funeral home in the capital where the body of Señor Pedro René Yanes had been taken. The investigator was killed on Saturday by a gunman who was then shot dead by Señor Yanes's bodyguards.

Señor Yanes was the head of the presidential commission on ethics, a corruption investigatory body, and the first member of Señor Duarte's Christian Democrat administration to be killed in what appeared to be a political assassination.

"It was a kind of plot. The causes are obviously of a political character," Señor Duarte said.

The Bishop of Mannar, the Right Rev Thomas Savundaranayagam, yesterday deplored the killing of father Mary Bastian, parish priest of St Anne's Church at Vankalai near Mannar in north-western Sri Lanka, by security forces on Sunday. He described it as a "cruel, inhumane, and unthinkable act against a man of God".

The bishop also protested against "the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and other means of government mass media for beaming out false news that arms and ammunition were found in the

Catholic church at Vankalai and that the church was used as a base to attack the security forces".

The Ministry of State said on Sunday that an army patrol had been shot at while passing the church. Eight rebels had allegedly been killed, five captured, and large quantities of explosives, ammunition and "terrorist" literature found inside the church.

Bishop Savundaranayagam said innocent civilians had been killed and the security forces had also unlawfully entered a

Bishop denounces Colombo for priest's death

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

The Bishop of Mannar, the Right Rev Thomas Savundaranayagam, yesterday deplored the killing of father Mary Bastian, parish priest of St Anne's Church at Vankalai near Mannar in north-western Sri Lanka, by security forces on Sunday. He described it as a "cruel, inhumane, and unthinkable act against a man of God".

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It took a British company to develop Europe's most exciting new cars.

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Peres promises all-out effort to rescue last stranded Falashas

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Amid intensive behind-the-scenes attempts to devise new ways of rescuing the black Jews of Ethiopia, Mr Shimon Peres, Israel's Prime Minister, promised yesterday to try to get out the estimated 12,500 still stranded.

Speaking about the suspended airlift for the first time since its premature disclosure by Israeli officials, Mr Peres said of the Falashas still at the mercy of the African drought: "I can say clearly that we shall not rest until all our brothers and sisters from Ethiopia come safely back home. It is their salvation, and nobody has to pay the price apart from our own people."

Addressing an audience at Hebron University, Mr Peres added that the Ethiopian Jews had taken great personal risks in their efforts to come to Israel, and, in return, Israel would do everything possible for them.

"We have put aside all considerations, economic, political and religious, to open our hearts, minds and homes to really help them, this great, forlorn community."

Today Mr Peres is due to make an official statement to the Israeli parliament on operation Moses, which ended at the weekend.

After a Cabinet debate on Sunday on the airlift by the Belgian charter airline Trans European Airways, *The Times* was informed that a report was being submitted to the chief censor in Tel Aviv about its front-page reports yesterday on Israel plans.

In a telephone call, Colonel Avi Gur-Ari, head of the Jerusalem military censor's office, told me that special instructions had been issued for all reports relating to the rescue to be submitted for censorship. A decision had not been taken about what sanctions, if any would follow yesterday's report.

According to the Jewish Agency, whose officials have been closely involved in planning the dramatic rescue operation, some 8,000 to 10,000 Falashas are still in Ethiopia.

Yesterday, for the first time, Israel's President, Mr Chaim Herzog, intervened in the fierce public debate that resulted from the leaking of details about the airlift by two officials from the Jewish Agency, and a subsequent press conference staged on the orders of Prime Minister's office.

"I must regretfully point out that we have a dubious talent for converting any admirable achievement into a matter of

controversy," Mr Herzog said. "It is my plea that we do not make this splendid rescue of Ethiopian Jewry into an ugly chapter of accusations and slanders levelled by political groups against each other."

The president added: "This national endeavour should not become a partisan political subject. Even if grave mistakes had inadvertently been made, we must now all make every effort to quiet the storm. . . I am convinced that the more we succeed in removing the subject from the headlines, the greater the chances to rescue the remnant."

Mr Herzog also launched an emotional attack on what he said was "the blatant hypocrisy" of various Arab states which have criticized the Israeli operation, and attempted to get Sudan to withdraw its vital cooperation.

"With the oil revenue of a single day they could have rescued all the Palestinian refugees from their distress, and did not, and now they cry out against a rescue operation of the greatest nobility."

The first Falasha baby born since the airlift was delivered in Jerusalem on Friday. Although under-weight, the boy's condition was reported as being good.

Eyes of the world on Geneva

Cruise the key, say Nordic duo

From Christopher Mosey Stockholm

The Swedish Prime Minister Mr Olof Palme, met Finland's President Mauno Koivisto yesterday in Stockholm in the shadow of the Geneva talks and concentrated on the threat to the security of the Nordic area posed by cruise missiles.

Statements by both leaders after the meeting were low key, so as not to interfere with any possible progress in Geneva. But there was private agreement that a Nordic initiative to outlaw cruise should be taken if there is no progress in talks between the superpowers.

President Koivisto said: "Assurances have to be given that these missiles will not violate the air space of neutral nations."

Mr Palme said he hoped the cruise issue would play a central role in the Geneva negotiations. As the talks took place, Finnish troops abandoned the search for the remains of a Soviet missile, which went off course over Norway to explode over Finnish Lapland after being fired from a submarine in the Barents Sea.

President Koivisto said he was not aware of the incident, which occurred on December 28, when he made a New Year's speech to the nation, calling for a ban on cruise missiles. "I heard about it on the news," he said yesterday. The incident was made on January 2.

Other subjects discussed included the need for a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Nordic area, and relations between the Soviet Union and Sweden, which have become strained in recent years.

Shultz shies from camera barrage

From Richard Owen, Geneva

It was a day when the eyes of the world were on two men who for the most part kept themselves cloistered away from the prying cameras, much to the disappointment of the American television networks who have descended on Geneva in force.

There are no fewer than 450 American journalists in the city by the lake, a figure which dismayed Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State. He was heard to mutter: "Oh my God, no," under his breath, a reference to his well known fear that excessive media coverage could give rise to unrealistically high expectations. His talks with Mr Gromyko, after all, are supposed to set an agenda rather than achieve total disarmament overnight.

Mr Gromyko, who spoke in English on arrival, was clearly aware of the need for public relations. But the Soviet media team consists of just 15 people, including the Tass man normally resident in Geneva anyway.

Far from subjecting the talks to media overkill, Tass maintained an uncharacteristic silence, issuing only a two-line despatch after lunch. A read-fused Tass man explained this was due to lack of guidance from the Kremlin, but to three-hour communications breakdown between Geneva and Moscow.

The breakdown evidently did not affect Mr Gromyko, who reportedly spoke to Moscow the two negotiating sessions while Mr Shultz was on the line to Mr Reagan in Washington.

Wife's concern over Shcharansky

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Geneva - Extreme concern about the condition of the Soviet dissident, Mr Anatoly Shcharansky, 37, was voiced yesterday by his wife, Avital (Alan McGregor writes). She told a press conference that his mother was told on December 27 by a senior Communist official in Moscow that he had been removed from Christopol Prison to a hospital three months previously and that accounted for "the total break-off in contact."

Ms Shcharansky said "A concentrated effort must be made for his release. The situation may be critical."

For the morning session a 10-car cavalcade of senior American officials swept through the gates of the Soviet mission, a modern building set back from the road and painted white, despite its official name which is the Villa Rosa.

"Are you tired?" Mr Gromyko asked Mr Shultz as they sat on a sofa beneath a portrait of President Chernenko. No, said Mr Shultz.

Outside on the Avenue de la Baix, the world's reporters waited in freezing Moscow-style temperatures for any sign of progress, held back by a phalanx of armed security guards.

Local officials were puzzled by Mr Gromyko's complaint to Mr Pierre Aubert, the Swiss Foreign Minister, that Switzerland was failing to provide adequate security for Soviet citizens.

Damascus holds key as Naqqoura teams wait

From Robert Fisk, Naqqoura

For different reasons but with the same apparent lethargy, Lebanese and Israeli military delegates continued their negotiations yesterday for an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Israeli officers claimed there could be no progress until Syria's Baath party - which they regard as Lebanon's real government - had finished its congress in Damascus. Lebanese officers insisted that the Israelis submit a detailed withdrawal plan before they could even discuss security along Israel's northern border.

But yesterday, there was a significant shift in Israel's line. Before Christmas, Israeli spokesmen were suggesting that Israel's patience was almost at an end: that if the Lebanese did not produce any worthwhile proposals by yesterday's session here, the Israeli Army might simply begin its withdrawal from Sidon, whatever the consequences to the Lebanese.

Yesterday, the Israeli spokesman - faced with absolutely no

concessions from the Lebanese - expressed his confidence that security arrangements could be found in southern Lebanon to the benefit of both sides.

The Israelis, however, also made it known that they were not pleased with Lebanon's unwillingness to compromise. In a closing statement, the Israeli delegation charged that Lebanon "evaded giving a clear answer" to earlier demands.

Both sides have been resigned to inconsequential days of talks under the somewhat impatient gaze of General William Callaghan and his United Nations officers at Naqqoura.

The Lebanese have angered the UN by suggesting that UN troops have been assisting, albeit by default, the Israeli occupation army. Israel, for its part, has continued to suggest that the UN should form a buffer zone between Israeli and Syrian forces in the lower Bekaa valley, an idea which the UN believes will merely re-emphasize the partition of Lebanon.



Lebanon's chief negotiator, Brigadier-General Muhammad al-Haj, in pensive mood yesterday.

Judge's testimony buoys Sharon

Tel Aviv (Reuter) - The Israeli Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, left yesterday for New York to continue his libel suit against *Time* magazine.

The Justice Ministry said the former Supreme Court president, Mr Yitzhak Kahana, who headed Israel's inquiry into the 1982 Beirut massacre of Palestinian refugees, had testified that a secret appendix of his report did not indicate that Mr Sharon discussed revenge with Phalange militiamen.

Mr Sharon, Defence Minister at the time, is suing the magazine for \$50 million (£42 million) for alleging that the appendix said he had discussed avenging the death of Bashir Gemayel, the Phalange leader and president-elect, with Gemayel's family.

Before leaving, a jubilant Mr Sharon told reporters that the new testimony "proves beyond any doubt *Time* magazine lied."

A Justice Ministry spokesman said Mr Kahana replied "no" to the following three questions submitted by the court:

Do the documents show or hint that Mr Sharon held a discussion with the Gemayel family or a member of the Phalangists in which he discussed the need of avenging the murder?

Do they indicate that Mr Sharon held a discussion with a Phalangist in which either mentioned the need for revenge?

Do they indicate that Mr Sharon knew in advance the Phalangists would massacre civilians if they entered the Beirut camps unaccompanied by Israeli forces?

Barbie 'will expose resistance heroes'

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Spectacular "revelations" about reputed heroes of the French resistance have been promised during the trial of Klaus Barbie, the so-called "Butcher of Lyons", which is now expected towards the end of this year.

M Christian Riss, the examining magistrate, has completed his preliminary investigations after nearly two years of work. He has submitted his report to the public prosecutor who will draw up the documents and set a date for the trial.

Barbie, who has been held in prison in Lyons since his expulsion from Bolivia in February 1983, has been charged with "crimes against humanity" in connection with the death of more than 4,000 French resistance fighters and Jews, and the deportation of 7,500 others, when serving as an SS officer in Lyons between 1942 and 1944. Maître Jacques vergès, Barbie's lawyer, announced that his client would make "revelations" at his trial concerning "certain people" who had profited or received honours because of their reputed role in the resistance.

The disclosures "will not only make a lot of noise, but will also hurt", he promised.

Maître Vergès caused an uproar just over a year ago when he claimed that Jean Moulin, the French resistance leader, was not beaten to death in prison by Barbie in June 1944, as is generally supposed.

Politicians may be implicated

but committed suicide in despair after being betrayed by other members of the resistance.

He has not named any names, but there have been rumours that figures, alive and dead, across the French political spectrum may be implicated, with little to indicate whether the allegations are true.

The timing of the disclosures could be particularly embarrassing if judicial sources are right in suggesting that the trial will begin at the end of this year, before the critical parliamentary elections in March next year.

The American syndicated newspaper columnist, Jack Anderson, quoting unidentified "intelligence sources", recently suggested that Barbie's trial was being deliberately delayed by those in important places, who feared being denounced. Mr Anderson claimed that the French authorities were hoping that Barbie, who is 71 and in poor health, would die before being brought before the courts.

Of the original eight charges of crimes against humanity brought against Barbie, only

Charges dropped for lack of evidence

three have been retained by M Riss. The others had to be dropped for technical reasons or for lack of supporting evidence.

Barbie is now charged with the deportation to German concentration camps of 650 people, including 330 Jews, from Lyons in August 1944; the deportation in February 1943 of 86 members of the Lyons committee of the Union Generale des Israelites de France, including the father of M Robert Badinter, the French Minister of Justice; and the deportation of 55 Jews, including 52 children, from a children's home in Izieux, near Lyons, in April 1943.

Barbie cannot be prosecuted for any "war crime" because the deadline for such prosecutions has long since expired. Nor may he be prosecuted for any crimes of which he was found guilty in his absence by French tribunals in the early 1950s. And for which he was twice condemned to death.

There is no time limit on crimes against humanity, but they apply only to groups of civilians and not to individuals. Barbie will not therefore be tried for the death of Jean Moulin.

Frank words leave Kennedy and Pik Botha worlds apart

From Ray Kennedy, Onderstepoort

The best laid plans of highly organized political bodies in Washington DC tend to go awry when they are exposed to the timelessness of Africa. So it was yesterday the second day of Senator Edward Kennedy's South African safari.

This spot in the middle of the bushveld is where the senator and his party are supposed to be. Two thousand blacks now living on a lush farm settlement 80 miles away are threatened with forced removal to here under the Government's resettlement policy designed to eliminate so-called blackspots from designated white areas.

Senator Kennedy began his day with a 90-minute meeting with R F "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, in Pretoria.

After what was apparently a frank exchange of views Mr Botha said: "The purpose of such discussions is not to seek common ground. I think it would be naive to ever expect Senator Kennedy and me to reach common ground."

The senator then left the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg by helicopter for the black settlement at Mthopstead, while most of the media entourage tried to keep up in cars and buses.

The senator's helicopter was more than one hour behind because the talks with Mr Botha went on longer than planned.

Senator Kennedy and the villagers, led by Chief John Matope, settled under the shade of a bigum tree for a traditional *Endaba*, a tribal pow-wow - except that in this case the Washington whizz kids had failed to research exactly how an *Endaba* proceeded.

The official schedule said: "11.30-12.30. Meeting with residents of Mthopstead black-spot area." It was 1.20pm when Chief Matope called the *Indaba* to order.

First there was a prayer. In rural Africa prayers are sung, not muttered, and the men and women of the village treated the senator to five minutes of instant harmony.

Then it was Chief Matope's turn. He outlined the history of the settlement, legally bought by his clan 74 years ago by word and gesture, pausing after every

few words to let one of his sons translate into basic English.

All that the people of Mthopstead wanted was to see their children grow up and enjoy "this very lovely piece of land," Senator Kennedy said.

"Now every night they have to wonder if the next day trucks and vans will come to take them to a different land. The only reason for this is the colour of their skin."

The senator was then due, more than two hours behind schedule, to fly to Onderstepoort, to see what the people of Mthopstead can expect. But his helicopter would not start and he decided to give it a miss and returned to Johannesburg by car.

Close to the Sun City gambling centre, Onderstepoort is in an area on the edge of the "independent" homeland of Bophuthatswana and soon to be incorporated in it, which means the people of Mthopstead will lose their South African citizenship as soon as they are dumped here. It was one of the key issues in the talks between the Senator and Mr Botha.

New Caledonia's future Stiff French opposition to freedom formula

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The French overseas territory of New Caledonia would be under a fully independent state under a "contract of association" with France on January 1, 1986, if proposals announced yesterday by M Edgar Pisani, France's special envoy, are accepted by the island's 145,000 population.

In a 35-minute radio address, broadcast simultaneously in New Caledonia and France, M Pisani, a former French Commissioner to the EEC, said that in his view the formula of independence coupled with association represented "the best and no-doubt the only solution" for the troubled South Pacific islands, which have belonged to France since 1853.

His proposals were greeted by a predictable mixture of muted satisfaction by the indigenous Kanaks, who have been demanding full independence for the islands, and outraged opposition by the anti-separatist hardliners among the white "Caldoches" of French origin on the islands, and their supporters among the right-wing opposition parties on the French mainland.

M Jacques Roseau, spokesman for the National Committee of Support for French New Caledonia, said that M Pisani's plan was "the Evian accord [granting independence to Algeria] only worse". M Pisani had "done everything to favour a solution of a Socialist-Kanak independence in context of superior French interests and of the human dramas which it will entail for the Francophile Melanesians (Kanaks) and the Caldoches."

There should be no illusions about the efficacy of M Pisani's pretended guarantees for the white population. M Roseau continued. Past experience showed that there was not one example of a state, dominated by an extremist party, becoming independent, which had not resulted in an exodus.

"France is today abandoning New Caledonia just as it sold Algeria down the river yesterday," he said. M Roseau, who returned on Sunday from a visit to New Caledonia, is also president of a French association representing Frenchmen repatriated from France's former North African colonies.

M Jean-Claude Gaudin, leader of the centrist UDF group in the French parliament, expressed astonishment that M Pisani had not said anything about what would happen if the New Caledonians chose to remain French. "We cannot accept this unilateral vision of the future of what for us is still an integral part of France," he said.

Under M Pisani's proposals, a referendum asking the New Caledonians whether they wanted independence under a contract of association with France, or a maintenance of the status quo, would be put to the vote in July this year.

All those resident in New Caledonia for more than three years would have the right to vote. If the vote was in favour of independence (which is by no means a foregone conclusion), a New Caledonian parliament would be elected next October, which would be responsible for drawing up the Treaty of Association with France, prior to full independence.

The EEC has got to progress or decline. That was the "basic formula" offered by M Jacques Delors yesterday when he presided at the first meeting of the new European Commission in Brussels.

He told the press immediately afterwards that he had made three resolutions. The first was not to make a big spectacle out of his presidency. The second was to make no ill-considered promises. The third was not to give way to "Europessimism".

He said his 27 years of association with the Community had taught him that it was a dry and difficult subject. Even if it was tempting to try to adopt a salesman's technique, he knew there were too many pitfalls. The Community institutions had been adrift for some

Howe calls for reality for Namibia

From Jan Raath, Harare

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday reiterated Britain's view that there should be no formal link between independence for Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, but that negotiations could not ignore the Cuban issue.

He is in Zimbabwe on the first leg of an African tour. In a speech at a lunch hosted by Dr Witness Mangwede, his Zimbabwean counterpart, Sir Geoffrey advocated the "good sense" of patient and peaceful negotiation to resolve the apparently intractable problems.

He said Britain rejected Pretoria's position, which is backed by the US, that the independence of Namibia should be contingent on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

But, almost in the same breath, he urged Zimbabwe, which has become the leading force in the frontline states, to take account of the "political reality" that, unless there was some form of arrangement over the Cubans which South Africa would accept, there would be no agreement on the implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence.

The frontline states, including Angola, oppose the Cuban "linkage" policy.

Sir Geoffrey said this would improve prospects for a settlement, and hoped the present talks, led by Dr Chester Crocker, the US Assistant Secretary of state for African affairs, would succeed in dealing with the linkage obstacle.

No time for showmanship or empty promises in Europe says Delors

From Ian Murray, Brussels

years, and the Commission had its back against the wall. It was no time for showmanship.

As far as promises were concerned, he was only too aware that the Council of Ministers alone had the decision-making right. The Commission could make clever proposals and push things along. It could even cause trouble "in the right way at the right time". But it should not make promises it could not keep.

In refusing to give way to pessimism he argued that it was better to seek reasons for hope. There was a danger of a "gilded decline" with a high standard of living a politicians masked recession and growing unemployment.

"We have to find reasons for hope and action," he said. "The

Two British stars of rowing die in crash

Two prominent Britons in the world of rowing were killed in a road accident yesterday near Auxerre in Burgundy, on the Lyons-Paris motorway.

They were Graeme Hall, coach of the Cambridge crew for several years and of the British Olympic eight in Los Angeles last summer, and Sally Bloomfield, who rowed for Britain in the women's double sculls in the Olympic regatta. They were returning from a skiing holiday.

Mr Hall's son and daughter were injured in the crash but not seriously.

Jim Ralston, page 29

Ex-MP held for robbery

Ludwigshafen (AP) - A former Free Democrat MP was arrested for allegedly robbing a jewellery store and striking two witnesses with a pistol.

Police said that Hans-Otto Scholl, aged 51, former chairman and Whip of his party in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, remained in investigative custody.

Governor back

Frankfort, Kentucky (AP) - Governor Martha Layne Collins, aged 48, returned to work for the first time since undergoing emergency abdominal surgery in London in November to remove a piece of glass, she swallowed. The glass punctured an intestine.

Belgian choice

Brussels (Reuter) - Mr Frans Groogans, aged 62, was named as Belgium's new Finance Minister and one of the country's three deputy prime ministers, replacing his fellow Flemish Liberal, Willy de Clerck, who becomes a European Commissioner.

Lange pledge

Wellington (Reuter) - The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, said his government would do all in its power to make the South Pacific a nuclear weapons free zone. "If there is morality in question, the moral is in the action," he said.

Strip poster

Peking (AP) - Chinese archaeologists have unearthed in Gansu province more than 700 bamboo strips inscribed with writings on the Han dynasty (206 BC-AD 220), including the earliest known "wanted" posters for a fugitive - a maid who ran away from a mansion.

Border killings

Nairobi (AFP) - Two Tanzanian militiamen were killed when Kenyan police opened fire on them by mistake after a cattle rustling incident in the Mara region on the Kenya-Tanzania border, Dar es Salaam radio reported.

Order in class

Delhi (Reuter) - India's new education minister, Mr K. C. Pant, has ordered strict classroom discipline - not for students but for teachers. He blamed lack of punctuality, gossiping and having visitors in offices.

Visits stopped

Vigo (AP) - Passengers on the British cruise ship *Sea Prince* were unable to disembark during a stop in this north-western Spanish port because of a demonstration by shipyard workers angry over job losses.

Desert run

Brisbane, (Reuter) - Ron Grant, aged 41, is halfway across Australia's 250-mile wide Simpson Desert in an attempt to be the first to run across it in summer. He ran round Australia in 1983.

Manila murder

Manila (AP) - Mr Jan David Rakoff, an American holiday firm executive, was found dead in his burning apartment here apparently clubbed to death with a piece of metal torn from a gas stove.

Late breakfast

Paris (Reuter) - France's first weekday breakfast television failed to go on the air because of a strike by technicians for pay rises and extra staff. The network said it had been "postponed".

Ferry sinks

Manila (AP) - One passenger died and 20 are missing after high waves sank a ferry with 512 passengers on board near Butuan City harbour in the southern Philippines.

Pipeline blast

Giessen, West Germany (AFP) - A Nato pipeline escaped damage from a bomb attack near here overnight, but an adjacent Nato petrol depot was slightly damaged.

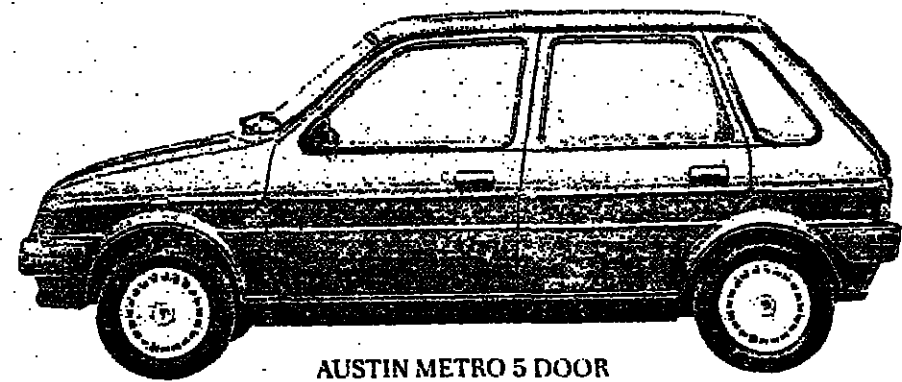
Smokers pay

Peking (Reuter) - Smokers brought China almost \$4 billion in taxes last year, its second largest source of revenue after the oil industry, the official *People's Daily* said.

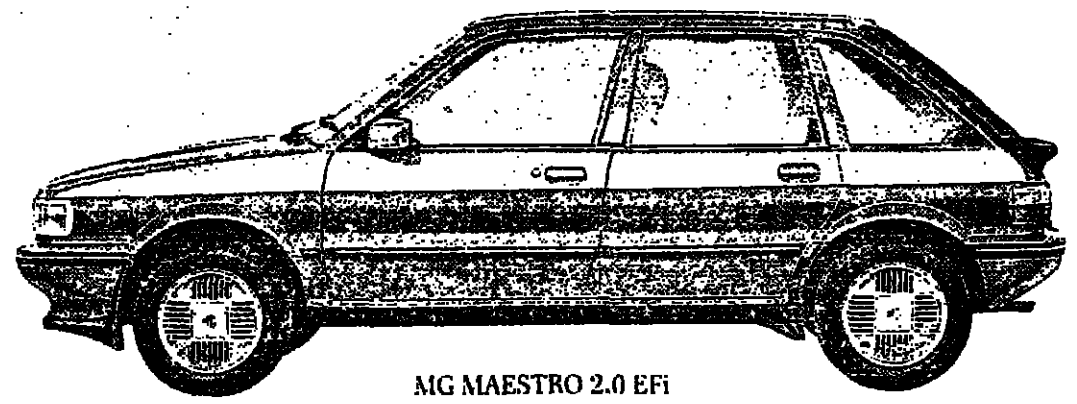
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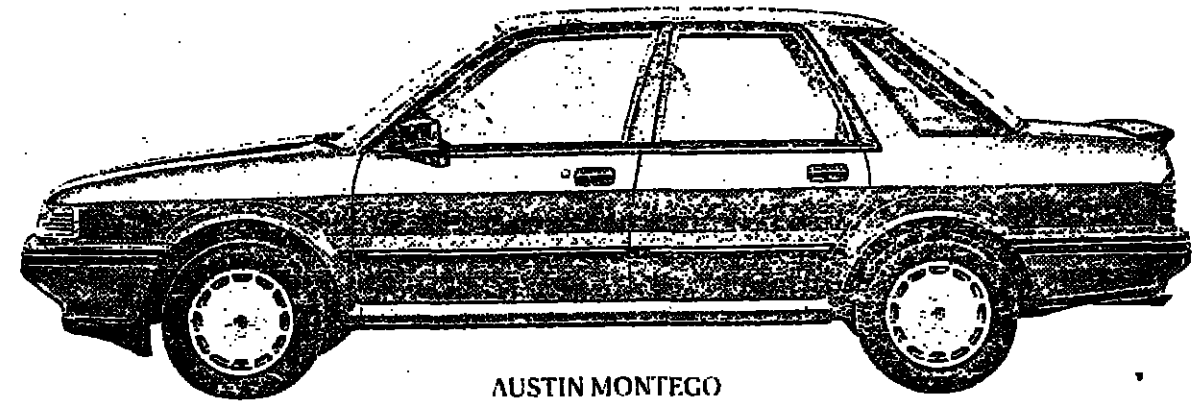
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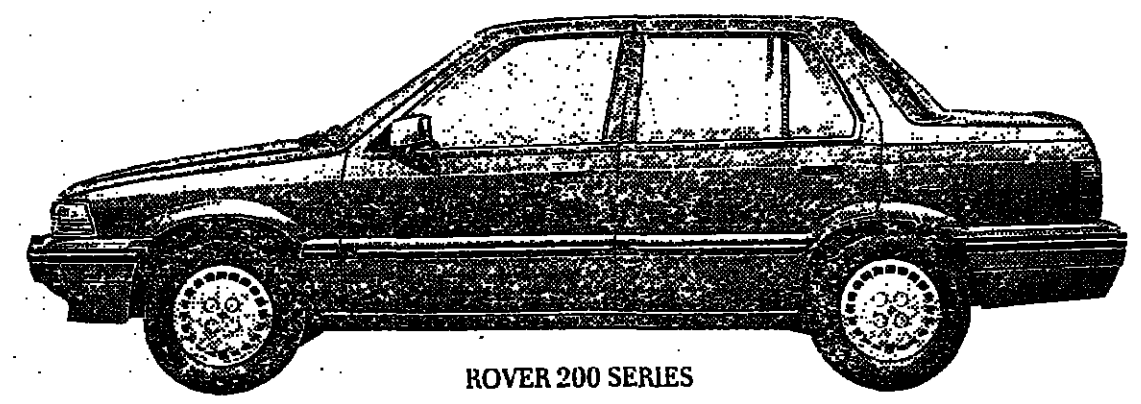
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And to show for it, there are now four new ranges of cars, and a new range of vans.

Among these, there are many exciting new prospects for '85:

The best selling Metro, for instance, sports a new interior, new fascia and aerodynamic front end, and it now comes with 5 doors as well as 3. It beats the rest by miles on miles per gallon, too.

Then there's Maestro.

As part of the 1985 range, Maestro adds a 2-litre

fuel injection MG. It does 0-60 in 8.5 seconds, powering to 115 mph* Some family car!

Not to be out-performed, the new 8-car Montego family is joined by five new estate cars - the first British estates with a 7-seat option.

And from Rover comes the new compact 200 series. A breed of Rover that combines traditional values with more than a little panache.

This new high technology company doesn't stop at first class car design. We deliver more.

We deliver low running costs.

Through fuel efficiency, modest service charges and that old-fashioned quality, value for money.

We deliver care.

Today, every Austin Rover car from Mini to Rover, comes complete with "Supercare," the most comprehensive customer care plan in the motor industry. Backed up by the country's largest and most accessible dealer network.

And, just as we are committed to offering the most competitive products, so our dealers are committed to compete hardest for your custom.

All of which means there's never been a better time to visit your Austin Rover dealer.

D.O.T. figs: Metro 1.0 H.L.E. Simulated urban cycle 48.1 mpg (5.9 L/100 km). Constant 56 mph 67.6 mpg (4.2 L/100 km). Constant 75 mph 46.4 mpg (6.1 L/100 km). *Manufacturer's data.

The company:

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SPECTRUM



Trouble is feared when Falkland Islanders and "outsiders" meet for the first time at the traditional sports next month. In part two of a series **RODNEY TYLER** reports from the islands on how such fundamental changes are being welcomed and resented

Facing the chill wind of change

This week two British country policemen, Constables Mark Bullock of Hempstead, Gloucestershire, and Steve Barrett, of Sessingland, Suffolk, will set out from Port Stanley to Fitzroy settlement some 20 miles away to conduct a reconnaissance of the islands in the history of the Falkland Islands.

One reason they volunteered for the six-month tour of duty in the South Atlantic was to get away from the violence of the Falklands. It is ironic that they should be visiting the tiny settlement of 30 or so people in order to work out how to prevent what could be the islands' first serious bout of civil disturbance.

The East Falkland Camp sports is a traditionally peaceful two-day gathering of 200 or 300 Islanders who race their horses, hold gymkhanas, gossip, get drunk and allow their children a chance to play together. But what makes this year's event different is the presence and, for the first time, accessibility, of up to 6,000 outsiders.

The two policemen will work out how to defuse this potentially explosive mix: there are 4,000 couped-up construction workers from the new airport 10 miles away, and 4,000 soldiers equally deprived of such civilising influences as wives and families who wish to attend next month what is essentially a domestic occasion for the Islanders marking the end of the South Atlantic summer.

On the airport site itself the men are "policed", according to the Property Services Agency director Maurice Chamming, by the simple threat that anyone who throws a punch is sent home - losing most, if not all, of the £1,000 or more a month he has earned. "Security guards are told not to stop fights," he says. "All they have to do is take names." The fear on this occasion, however, is that away from the site the men might be tempted to cut loose.

The police plan is to do it with a mixture of rapidly acquired local knowledge and good humoured common sense. But the need for a reconnaissance such as theirs is happening. The conflict which ended on June 15, 1982, did not so much close a period of violent upheaval as begin a time of profound change in the Falklands.

To some Islanders most aspects of that change are unwelcome; to most they are seen as inevitable. A few welcome them wholeheartedly.

Next month's East Falkland Camp Sports at Fitzroy are a perfect example of the many, many ways in which island life will never be the same again - if only for the fact that these sports will need policing because the settlement will by then lie on a newly-completed road linking the islands, nearly completed new airport with the capital Port Stanley.

The fear is that the clash of cultures at this meeting, fuelled by the festive spirit, could well lead to a clash of fists.

"Nobody bothers about a happy drunk," says Chief Superintendent Bill Richardson, who has ordered the reconnaissance after one minor incident last year. "It's the

roads outside Stanley, and no airport other than the unsatisfactory strip on the edge of the town. The islands' whole economy has been locked in an early 20th-century time warp. The half of the population who lived outside Stanley existed on mail order and what they made or did for themselves - as curious to the outsider in their own way as sepia shots of early settlers in the Wild West. Those who lived in the big city (population 800) did indeed have shops and pubs, even an hotel, but no cobbler, dry cleaners, bakers, hairdressers, photography shops or many of the other high street regulars.

What is more, those luxuries were not a day away, or even a week away, as they would be in the Highlands or Islands of Scotland, with which the Falklands are most often compared. They were a month or more distant - and in another hemisphere.

They believe their only friends are Sir Rex Hunt and Mrs Thatcher

stropky ones that worry you - especially if there are a lot of them and they are all strangers. People feel anxious if the place suddenly fills up with a lot of strangers. Our presence will help put their minds at rest.

"Now that they can get there, soldiers are bound to want to go from Stanley and men from the airport site. It could get out of control, that's why the boys will be going. It's a sign of the times."

Until now there have been no

would have been as little use retaking the islands if they were immediately left open again to Argentinian invasion, as it would be if there was nothing there worth the re-taking in five years' time anyway. And that was precisely the situation found by Lord Shackleton in the aftermath of victory.

His report talked of the "unacceptability" of an island with a population down to 1,000 (which was shrinking steadily) being defended by 3,000 or more soldiers and "depending economically on its income from postage stamps."

But the cost of saving, securing and making sound the islands has already run to more than £1 million per head of the 1,800 population, and it is not just those on the left who have their doubts: many who wholeheartedly supported the original task force now have them too. Did we parry in haste, only to repent at leisure?

The view of the Falklands as a lump of useless rock, not worth fighting for, and the Islanders as equally lumpen and worthless in the long term historical context, is one being carefully shepherded as a by-product of the Dailly anti-Belgrano faction.



LEFT: Constables Mark Bullock and Steve Barrett on their beat. RIGHT: Soldiers, off duty, and maintaining good relations with young Islanders

It is helped by the natural distortion of any place seen from 8,000 miles away. Few people realize, for example, that the Falklands are the size of Wales, or that parts of them are outstandingly beautiful, or that the people of Stanley are as different in their outlook from the people of Fox Bay on West Falkland, as are the people of Cardiff from those of Anglesey.

They are neither unintelligent, untrusting, ungrateful nor intransigent. They are Islanders who live alone or in tiny communities - but they do not feel they should be tossed aside at a political whim.

Their isolation is purely physical. For example Hector "Sue" Binney and his wife live 10 miles away from the Fox Bay settlements - he rarely visits even those tiny enclaves more than once a year. His wife has not been there in 10 years. Yet they know everything that is happening on the islands because they talk, more than would two neighbours over a garden fence in suburban London, with everyone within earshot of their two-metre band radios.

And they keep up to date with the world outside through the radio and a constant supply of videos delivered by anyone. Army or otherwise, who passes their way.

The people have a political awareness, albeit sharpened by events of 1982, which you would be unlikely to find in any other random group of 1,800 largely rural folk: an awareness sufficient, for example, for their three spokesmen - John Cheek, a communications engineer,

and farmers Tony and Tina Blakely - to distinguish themselves at the United Nations.

To outsiders they may appear as intransigent oddities. For, with all their differing shades of opinion, they are absolutely united in their hatred of Argentina and determination to remain as British as the Isle of Wight. From 8,000 miles away, and to ears already gently bent by the Foreign Office's persistent desire to "tidy up" relations with Argentina, such strong convictions take on a crankiness, which in turn further undermines our reason for fighting the first - let alone the second or third - battles of the Falklands.

They seem untrusting because they believe they have only two friends: Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner - who it is gently suggested by sources close to the FCO has "gone native" - and the Prime Minister, who will not last forever. And they seem ungrateful because they regard that first battle of the Falklands - and consequently the second and third - as no more than their right as Britons.

Most Islanders, more so outside Stanley than in the town, accept that things will never be the same again but

find much to their irritation that too often their sadness at the passing of aspects of the way of life which existed before 1982, is misinterpreted as ingratitude for what has happened since.

Sir Rex puts their case succinctly: "The future for us is that we stay as we are - firm and steadfast - and wait for the Argentinians to grow up and realise that the islands never wanted them in the first place."

We are all for normal relations between Britain and Argentina, but not for links between the Falkland Islands and Argentina. There is no need for them now and there was no need for them before 1971. Our links are with the UK and we want it to stay that way. When Argentina talks of negotiations they mean the transfer of sovereignty. Any future British Government that decided that would have to impose it on the Islanders."

So what has happened since 1982? The good news is that the second, military, battle for the Falklands is on the point of victory in a style as breathtaking in its own way as was the victory two and a half years ago. More cautious are the prospects in the battle for the islands' economy. It will be a longer and tougher struggle in its own way than either of its two predecessors.

The future for us is that we stay as we are: firm and steadfast

So what has happened since 1982? The good news is that the second, military, battle for the Falklands is on the point of victory in a style as breathtaking in its own way as was the victory two and a half years ago. More cautious are the prospects in the battle for the islands' economy. It will be a longer and tougher struggle in its own way than either of its two predecessors.

TOMORROW The triumphs and the economic battle that must be won



The sheep are virtually the only element of traditional Falklands life to remain unaffected by change.

THE SHARES OF VOLVO WERE INTRODUCED ON THE STOCKHOLM STOCK EXCHANGE IN 1935.

SINCE THEN THE COMPANY HAS PAID A DIVIDEND EVERY YEAR.

AND THE DIVIDEND HAS NEVER BEEN LOWER THAN THE YEAR BEFORE.

VOLVO

Nature Notes
Out And About with "Crab Apple"
 The lanes and tracks of England are rutted now with mud and manure (writes Crab Apple), which makes it treacherous underfoot. The branches stand stiffly against the sky and bitter wind brings the sheep huddling together for warmth; all in all, it's horrible weather and only a loony would be out and about, so I've stayed indoors ever since Christmas experimenting with my new cocktail-making kit.

Have you got one? Fun, aren't they? I went mad with Blue Curacao for a while, splashing it into everything. Gave the wife a heart attack one morning, serving her blue porridge. Anyway, here's a new cocktail I've invented which I call "Deadly Nightshade"...

("Crab Apple" has just been fired, writes the More-over Nature Editor. We are pleased to announce that Nature Notes will in future be written by "Sheepshank" of Country Life.)

Out and About with "Sheepshank"
 Hello, everyone (writes Sheepshank). Well, there seems to have been some kind of mistake here because I was actually the knot-tying expert on Country Life, but nothing venture, nothing win. And when you're out on a country walk, there's nothing more important than fastening gates behind you. Most farmers now leave lengths of that orange-coloured twine all over the place, which is ideal for tying gates up with, and the knot I always recommended is a Bulgarian Flying Hitch.

Put a slip knot over the main gate post, then loop the string firmly round the

moreover... Miles Kingston

Nature writers, an endangered species

nearest corner of the gate, bringing it up, back and down, as in a normal Flying Hitch. Leaving two loops, take the string...

(And "Sheepshank" will be back at some unspecified future date with more knot news, writes our Nature Editor. Meanwhile, here are some special January Nature Notes from George.)

Out and About with Boy George
 Hello, you beautiful people (writes Boy George). Of course, I'm not that Boy George. I'm just a Boy George look alike who happens to have the same name. And believe me, it's very useful being mistaken for the Widow Twankey of pop music the whole time - you get the best seats in restaurants, the best rooms in hotels and free flights all over the world. Frinistance. I've just come back from Christmas on Montserrat, and believe me, nature is looking pretty good out there at the moment. Great sprays of hibiscus, frangipani and gardenia - and that's just what's in the waitresses' hair! No, seriously, if you have a palm tree that needs repotting now is the time....

(Today's guest star in Nature Notes, writes our Nature Editor, was someone called Boy George. And there I'm afraid I must leave you as I have just been fired personally by Lord More-over on one of his rare visits to the office. Goodbye.)

Out and about with Lord More-over
 As someone who already owns half of Norfolk (writes Lord More-over), I can be said to be in pretty good touch with nature, especially intensively grown wheat. And my advice to you in 1985 is - deal direct with the Russians. No shilly-shallying about with Brussels and quotas and things with middlemen creaming everything off. Get on the hot line to the Kremlin, ask them how much they want, and when by. And insist they collect personally. As some-

one who owns half the ports in Norfolk, I think I know what I'm talking about.

Above all, cut out anything that isn't making a profit. This is nature's own lesson. The dodo wasn't making a return on investment, so nature ruthlessly cut him out. That's why, on my land, you won't find any trees, hedges, country churches or telephone kiosks. It's my way of getting back to nature.

Another example. This Nature Notes column has been running for years without attracting one single ad. I had no idea. A quite horrifying waste of money. I am closing it down today. If anyone wants to buy it, they're welcome.

Correction
 The new director of Voluntary Service Overseas is Mr Neil Melatos, not Mr David Simpson, as reported on January 3.

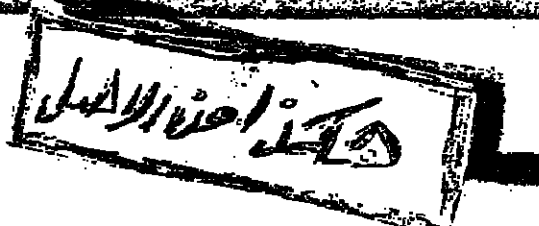
CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 538)

ACROSS
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 2 Ten cents (4)
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 4 Reveal (7)
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 6 Of ear (4)
 7 Folk stories (13,5,5)
 8 Same (4)
 9 Strong coffee (8)
 10 Search (7)
 11 Jap. verse form (5)
 12 Navy drink (4)
 13 Nape (6)

DOWN
 1 Force back (5)
 2 Merry (3)
 3 Boldness (1,3)
 4 Judge (4)
 5 Of marriage (7)
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 7 Trickery (5,5)
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 9 Celebrity (4)

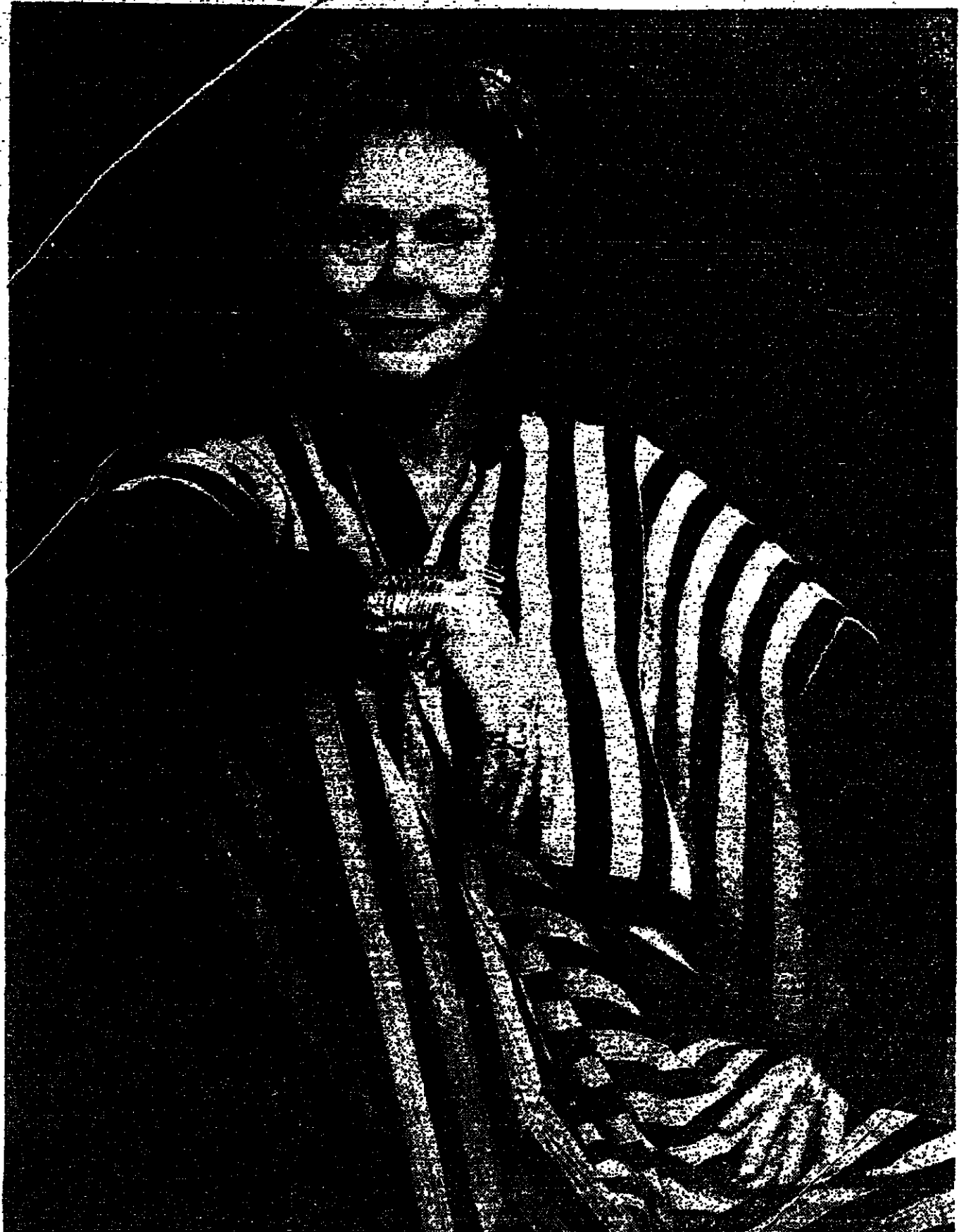
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DOWN: 1 Quilms 2 Attic 3 Fuselage 4 Bermuda shorts 5 Aura 6 Houdini 7 Relish 12 Cognate 14 Rapture 15 Inflow 16 Urgent 19 Lease 20 Idle



كانت احدى الالاميل

Worth dressing up for the part



三宅一生の発想と展開
ISSEY MIYAKE

Next month, Japanese designer Issey Miyake (above) stages an exhibition at The Boilerhouse. His radical ideas about shape and texture of clothes have won him a fervent fashion following. Actress Irene Worth explains how she has taken his clothes on stage and into her life



Irene Worth and her new coat take to the boards tonight in *Coriolanus*. "Our raiment and state of body would betray what state of life we have led," the actress will declaim, as Volturnia to her son.

The tattered rags on view to the National Theatre audience were spotted a month ago behind the plate glass of a shop window. "Most people would not realize that a fashionable designer could produce something for the raggedy look of a city under siege," says Irene Worth. "I never realized when I saw it that I would wear it for myself. I thought those kind of clothes were just for young things."

Irene Worth's love affair with Issey Miyake's clothes started when she went into his London shop to try on the theatrical coat. He is not the first designer, she explains proudly, that she has put on the stage. Zandra Rhodes, Mainbocher and the New York couturier and the New York couturier, she says, have all appeared in her past performances - after the fashion-aware actress realized their potential.

We met at the studio where the ebullient Miss Worth was explaining to the hairdresser that she wanted her hair to look rumpled and punky, not tidy and matronly.

"I hate anything that is a *la mode*," she says. "I fancy fashion that means running with the herd. I love style and original line and vision. Clothes that really say something are eternal. This has youth in it!"

She is wearing a striped cotton tunic and trousers in a tactile weave with sleeves a contrasting liquorice black tulle. With it, she puts a sculptural bracelet, designed by the American sculptor Alexander Calder and borrowed from a close friend.

Irene Worth is 68 and her fashioning experience, as well as her acting career, has a wide span. At the time she was most involved with clothes, she dressed in the impeccable tailoring of London designers like John Cavanagh and Michael who made her "one of the most wonderful coats in blue wool and as light as a cloud." In her *Valentina* couture creations she appeared on stage with Sir Alec Guinness in a modern dress version of *All's Well That Ends Well*.

She was intrigued, she says, by the fashion revolution in the Sixties when she bought Ossie Clark shirts and a flamboyant Bill Gibb leather suit decorated with silver chrysanthemums. In Issey Miyake's clothes, she finds "the marvelous freedom and sense of ingenuity we had in the Sixties."

"Clothes are a natural way of being creative if you are not an artist," she says. "I adore that ethnic period when you throw on 25 necklaces."

Peter Hall's *Coriolanus* demands a great deal of her as an actress, but the play is in reports at the National Theatre fit runs all this week and again in mid-February and March) so that Irene Worth is not faced with constant pressure. Christmas was spent in an escape to the sun.

I was treated to a dress-rehearsal of the hot-weather wardrobe in an intricately-cut white-sand coat dress ("will you behold the beauty of this") and then an impromptu theatrical performance in another more dramatic Issey Miyake outfit of checked kimono coat, tunic and wide trousers.

"I appreciate the creative energy that goes into making good clothes," she says. "What Issey Miyake has is a genius for structure that inadvertently is very comfortable. It is a completely new way of constructing clothes that seems almost medieval."

There is another off-stage Irene Worth, who came home from the sun last weekend to a frozen English winter. She wears classic cashmere sweaters "in all the subtle heathery colours that are so flattering to women in the English light."

She recalls tweed bought in Ireland in colours that "seem to hide themselves in sunlight and sing out under an overcast sky."

She says she is realistic about her age, but aware of the world she lives in. In the Sixties her skirts were slightly shortened. Now she tries to draw a fine line "between looking dowdy or ridiculous."

Miyake himself claims that his clothes are not especially Japanese; they are rather the creations of a designer who comes from Japan. Irene Worth disagrees.

"This is profoundly influenced by the Japanese," she says of the rugged textures and simple lines. "The great joys come into this. Funny enough, I have had for years a passionate interest in classical Japanese theatre where everything has a meaning even if we don't understand it."

Fashion is about change, and Irene Worth has radically changed her own style since the ladylike 1950s and the wilder fashion years that followed.

I asked her if she would be faithful now to the Miyake concept. A puckish smile lit up her face as she replied: "Monotony kills. I am always faithful but I would not like everybody to be wearing it. I must not be a walking fashion plate. That's why I hate rhinestones and all that circus. It was brought up to believe that it is vulgar for people to notice what we wear."

I suggested that some people might think the Miyake clothes (to say nothing of her previous enthusiasms, Zandra Rhodes) made a very bold fashion statement.

"I think they're very quiet clothes," she replied. "They are clothes to admire, not clothes to show off. Good design never shows off."



Irene Worth wears Issey Miyake's graphic and textural clothes from his new collections at Issey Miyake, 21 Sloane Street, London SW1 and Plantation, 270 Brompton Road, London SW3. Miss Worth's make-up by Mary Vango. Hair by Debbie Horgan at Daniel Galvin Colour Salon

Issey Miyake was born in Hiroshima. His clothes are the fall-out of another emotive historical moment - the May 1968 revolution in Paris. The young Japanese designer, who was working in France, turned his face against haute couture and created a revolutionary concept of dress.

"I am Japanese and we have a fantastic tradition not only of art, but of people's minds, lifestyle and nature," says Issey Miyake. In the next breath he will admit that his wrapped and draped garments, flowing from one shape into another, owe a lot to the traditions of couture, especially to Madame Vionnet and her bias cutting.

Miyake's fabrics are indubitably Japanese. His fabric innovations are a hallmark of his style and of the avant garde Japanese movement that has challenged Paris fashion in the 1980s.

The Miyake design studio arranges marriages between technology and traditional peasant

workwear to produce a new generation of materials. An Issey fashion collection can contain as many as 300 different fabrics, all with a strong surface interest or contrast of texture. Materials look like tree bark, like crinkled paper, a matt, tactile grass paper weave is followed by shiny, laminated space-age polyurethane.

These textural fabrics are made up into clothes that approximate to the shape of the body but never grasp it. Miyake says that he finds the Western tradition of dress too fitted and that he wants "to make things that are free both mentally and physically". This translates into garments that are free from Western concepts of sexuality and allure, as well as from silhouette and fit.

The clothes lap the body, cut not square and two-dimensional like a kimono, but shaped without creating a line. The garments express themselves as the body moves underneath and they are also mobile: a hood turns into a sleeve or a cape falls chameleon-like into a soft skirt.

The exhibition at the Boilerhouse will project Issey

Miyake's strong self-image and his uncompromising sense of design, so vividly expressed in his Paris shows and theatrical Tokyo productions.

I hope it will also show the wittier side of Issey, who may talk like a poet of harmony between body and fabric, but who also makes sculptured breastplates in black plastic and body cocoons plumped up on a cushion of air.

Inside that moulded breastplate bears a commercial heart. Unlike many innovative designers, Miyake's clothes sell in shops around the world (two in London) and to his fervent fashion followers.

● Issey Miyake's *Bodyworks*, *Fashion Without Taboos*, at The Boilerhouse, Victoria and Albert Museum from February 25 until March 28.

TOMORROW

Billie Whitelaw on her unique working relationship with Samuel Beckett

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Photographs by Clive Arrowsmith

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THE TIMES DIARY

Nitze picking

Paul Nitze, George Shultz's right-hand man at Geneva, must have felt like shooting a missile through the Swiss guards at the Intercontinental Hotel yesterday.

In the can

The government has been outwitted in its bid to stop the nation chucking over an Argentine film comedy about war.

Already?

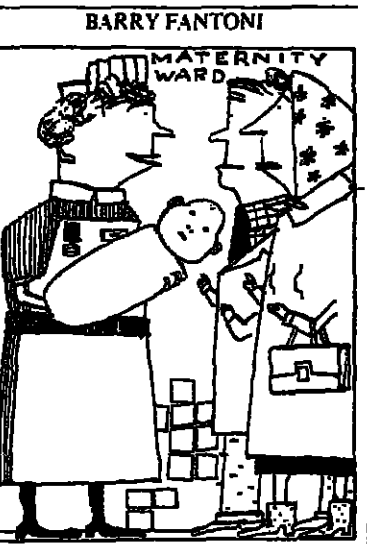
A reader in Wimbledon, sends me this postmark stamped on a letter he has received. He wonders if he has overslept.

Turbulence

Tony Benn's former PPS, Brian Sedgmore, who lists in Who's Who his sole recreation as "sleeping on the grass" thought he was in for the big sleep last week.

Peak travel

In a Radio Times advert placed by the Highlands and Islands Development Board, would-be holiday-makers are invited "Come and broaden your views."



Congratulations. You're the parents of a Private Member's Bill!

Hodder man out

Hodder and Stoughton were in turmoil yesterday after the resignation of Richard Cohen, their fiction editor for six years.

Two's company

After my disclosure that cocaine-smuggling Spectator columnist Taki is to be sent back to America on his release from Pentonville, I can reveal that TV actor Stacy Keach is also to be returned to the US.

Put Britain on the Rights road

by Richard Holme

Each year, under governments of both complexions, the citizens of Britain have been increasingly dwarfed by the power of the state, buttressed by its complex and anonymous structure of administration.

A Bill of Rights is clearly needed. It has the support of a wide range of Conservative opinion, Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, and Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, are among its supporters.

In June, two prominent Tory critics of Mrs Thatcher's policies, Geoffrey Rippon and Terence Higgins, were among 107 Conservative MPs who signed an early day motion calling for a bill incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law.

Some see the reason in the speech Mrs Thatcher gave at the Carlton Club in November in which she betrayed the impatience of someone who regards constitutional reform at best as a distraction from the real issues facing Britain and at worst as an attempt to restrain her freedom of action.

A simplistic version of the rules of public life suits all politicians in a hurry. They are at home with a constitution which has no system of checks and balances, and no

possibility of sensible reform. Britain is a unitary state without qualification. It is governed by an Executive responsible in name only to a House of Commons which, with a whipped party majority, may decide what it will. The courts may not peer behind the thick curtains of the state.

As the delicate web of shared assumptions about freedom and the rule of law, tolerance and democracy, is torn apart by the growing ferocity of partisan politics, the constitution stands revealed in all its famous invisibility. The recent furor over the nationalization of shipbuilders without adequate compensation, abolition of the GLC and the removal of the rights of union membership at GCHQ showed that constitutional points of reference, which every other civilized democracy observes, simply do not exist.

Some object that Parliament, through specific Acts, should provide whatever protection is necessary. To this there are several answers. First, Acts of Parliament are necessarily random in their coverage with yawning gaps between them. Secondly, minorities, such as prisoners, mental patients or the handicapped are virtually powerless in making themselves heard. Thirdly, no government, however benevolent its intentions, may be depended upon constantly and consistently to protect the rights of its subjects.

It is sometimes averred that with a right of ultimate appeal to the European Commission of Human Rights, an obligation imposed by treaty on the United Kingdom, there is no need to incorporate the Convention into UK law. Yet for every citizen with the resources and patience to pursue a case for up to eight years all the way to Strasbourg, there are hundreds more who, finding no remedy in the UK courts, have had to suffer the full weight of Executive power.

Many MPs of all parties support incorporation. Others hang back, suspicious of any measure which would apparently allow the courts to challenge Parliament. But that does not take sufficient account of the freedom of the individual under the law. Parliamentary sovereignty is a necessary but not a sufficient condition of liberty. It must be exercised in a context of respect for human rights.

1988, the last year in which the government can call an election, will be the 300th anniversary of the Bill of Rights of 1688. It would be a fitting celebration for the country which once led the world in constitutional democracy to have ensured the same standard of protection for individual rights that every other civilized democracy now enjoys.

The author is chairman of the Constitutional Reform Centre, which is co-ordinating the new Rights campaign.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

The truth about Nicechapovich

I have frequently drawn attention to a curious habit which many people in this country seem addicted to: the habit of hailing every new Soviet leader as a truly enlightened and liberal figure, vastly different from his brutal and obdurate predecessors, who is going to sweep away tyranny in his own country with one hand while encouraging mutual trust and friendship in ours with the other.

Malenkov, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Andropov, now Chernenko; each of them frees the addicts to admit part (usually a small part) of the truth about the previous messiah while hailing the advent of the new one. Indeed, it has now gone so far that the next Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachov, is being promoted in the same fashion, even though Chernenko is still alive.

Robert Conquest coined a name for the all-purpose Soviet redeemer: he is Ivan Nicechapovich Peacemaker. But - or perhaps I mean so - it is necessary for us to remind ourselves, before the current Ivan NP is buried with full military honours, of what kind of man he is, or more precisely, what kind of system the Soviet ruler, whoever he may be at any given moment, lives by and directs.

As it chanced, I have information today which does indeed serve to remind us of that which so many voices in Britain are raised in order to make us forget.

First, there is the case of Dr Anatoly Koryagin, Dr Koryagin, as my readers may recall, is a Soviet psychiatrist who committed the one unforgivable crime against Soviet medical ethics: he examined a Soviet dissident who had been incarcerated in one of the Soviet Union's madhouses-for-the-sane, found that there was nothing mentally wrong with the man, and said so. For this, he was sent to a concentration camp, and later to a prison, where he is now reported to be dying; he has been weakened by the hunger strikes he has endured as a protest against the frightful conditions in which he is kept, and as an attempt to persuade the authorities to allow him a visit from his wife. He is receiving no medical treatment: in plain English, he is being slowly and methodically murdered, and by the time these words appear he may already be dead, a martyr to the truth and to his determination to uphold the standards of his profession as a doctor.

The other news I have today emerges from two of the more repulsive aspects of Soviet tyranny: the refusal of the authorities to allow Soviet citizens to leave the country and settle elsewhere, and the increasing, and increasingly institutionalized, anti-semitism which has for many decades been inseparable



from Soviet communism. On the former, the Soviet argument is that all those citizens who wish to leave have already been allowed to do so, so that the thousands of "refuseniks" (who are mainly Jewish) are either non-existent or anti-Soviet slanderers, or even both.

In the Soviet Union, the private or semi-private teaching of foreign languages is encouraged as a socially useful activity. The teaching of one such language, and one only, is forbidden, and the prohibition is ferociously maintained with long prison sentences; the language is Hebrew. The ban is in force partly because of domestic Soviet anti-semitic policies and practices (many Soviet Jews, suffering more and more for their identity, have sought solace in the learning of their ancient language), partly because it is the language of modern Israel, which as a Jewish state is ipso facto to be condemned, partly because refuseniks (almost invariably sacked from their jobs as soon as they apply for emigration) can eke out a living by such teaching, and partly because the bond it offers tends to strengthen the determination of those who give the lie to Soviet statements by persisting in their desire to leave the country for ever.

Three Soviet Jews have recently learned what a Jew in the Soviet Union must face if he wants to teach Hebrew to those who want to learn

NUJ members: last call

The ballot for editor of the union's newspaper, The Journalist, closes on a couple of days these members who wish to keep the paper out of the hands of the left-wing extremists in the union are urged to vote (by numbers, not with crosses) 1 for PATERSON and 2 for TURNER, and not to put any number by the names of the other two candidates.

it. They are Yuly Edelstein, Alexander Kholmiansky and Josef Bernstein; they are aged respectively 26, 34 and 47.

Mr Edelstein, in mid-December, underwent a show trial on a charge of possessing forbidden drugs, viz., one gram of marijuana and eight grams of opium "in the raw stalk". No evidence was given to support the prosecution's case that Mr Edelstein used such drugs; the militia men who arrested him said that the drugs had been found on a window-sill, though there are no sills to the window of his flat; experts in these matters point out that to make usable opium from the raw stalk is impossible without a laboratory process (to which, of course, Mr Edelstein would have had no access); and the prosecutor ordered his arrest on a charge of possessing illegal drugs before sending the substances for analysis.

Before the trial, the guards were overheard being briefed; they were told that the defendant was a Jewish nationalist who had been criminally dealing in drugs, and ordered to fill the public seats and prevent any genuine member of the public getting in (in the event, only Mr Edelstein's mother and wife were allowed to attend). The defence was not permitted to call any witnesses, and Mr Edelstein was sentenced to three years in prison.

The second victim, Alexander Kholmiansky, was charged with possessing a revolver and ammunition. These things were "found" in his room in the flat he shares with his parents; the only person in the flat at the time of the search by militia men was Mr Kholmiansky senior, and he was not present when the actual "find" was made. The militia men also planted some Hebrew texts, one of which turned out to be a document removed, in

an earlier search, from the home of another young man who was learning Hebrew; the only possible conclusion is that the production of incriminating documents is so inefficient that some of them have to be used twice. Mr Kholmiansky has not yet been tried, but has been held for more than three months in prison; he embarked on a hunger strike, and when last heard of was being forcibly fed.

The third teacher of the forbidden language, Josef Bernstein, was returning from the consecration of his mother's gravestone when he was attacked by a gang of militia-men. He resisted, and was sentenced to four years imprisonment for "anti-Soviet actions".

In prison, he was so badly beaten up that when his wife managed to get permission to visit him, she could recognize him only by his voice (they have been married for 25 years). The prison authorities claimed that he had inflicted the injuries on himself (he has lost the sight of one eye and much of the sight of the other); they told his wife that unless both he and she cooperated, he would face a new charge of causing grievous bodily harm to himself. When she asked for medical assistance for her husband, it was refused.

After Mrs Thatcher had met the latest Ivan Nicechapovich, she said: "I like Mr Gorbachov; we can do business together." I have to remind her that, in an earlier day, there were senior figures in the Conservative Party who liked Herr von Ribbentrop and who not only could but did "do business together" with him. Happily, their approbation did not save him from subsequently being hanged for, among other things, complicity in persecution and murder.

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As the Royal Doulton grazes my scalp . . .

Kensington, (despatch delayed)

Day One of Harrods Sale, and there I was picking my way over the slumped bodies who had succumbed to the heat and pausing only to disentangle the odd Japanese from my raincoat. I wove my way through the dynastic haridans who man Perfumery and fetched up at it whimsily silly delight at the cool serenity of the Emergency Stairs.

I sopped up the most worrying of the perspiration with a rag I always keep by me and started bobbing up the stairs as if hell breathed fury behind me, for the art of the first day of the Sale is never to stop for a moment; even pause for a milli-second and you usher in all the sensations of despair, utter foolishness and the panic of poverty, not to say, rendering yourself liable to be trampled to death - for the first-day sales shopper is a mean and vilely determined animal, as I was to discover as I attacked the fortified mountains of porcelain and glass.

reconnaissance a few days earlier when they were setting it all up. I had watched a young man in a trance taping down the lids of hundreds and hundreds of Wedgwood bonbon boxes. Who on earth was going to buy them all? A couple of girls were staring felt on the trestle tables that were soon to hold more china and glass than it is possible to imagine could ever exist. Rather touchingly, they had been discussing the colour scheme of the differing baizes, and now on Day One you couldn't even see the china, let alone the tables, so walked in was it by a mass of sweating grim-faced resolve, apparently long-starved of plates.

Entire families (the youngest detailed to go for saucers) jostled with single ladies in opulent furs. One woman from not around here stumbled under the weight of a Royal Worcester tureen and her yashmak slipped so that nothing of her face was visible save the moustache. When I went to assist her she hissed, "My husband, he kill

you" so I hot-footed away, deftly skirting a man who demanded of his wife that she inspect his rear for he was convinced that something was sticking in him. From my vantage point it looked like a piece of Coalport shrapnel but now I was being barged on by a very large man clutching eight of those taped Wedgwood boxes, and so hard was he barging that I only narrowly averted a 32-piece tea service having considerably more.

One young woman hit me with her tote bag, which seemed rather unfortified, and more so when she did it again. The gist of the gesture was that I was standing where she wanted to be, and plainly she intended to carry on this assault until I did something about it. The trouble was I couldn't move because a truly ancient crumbly lady was slumped at my feet, embracing a pair of decanters. I was unsure as to whether or not she had died, but certainly the handbag-thumping was becoming vexing and you know how it is in the heat of the moment - I

sort of shimmed down to the old lady's level and slid a hand over her face to see if she was breathing and then she was shrieking, "Mine! Mine!" and clutching the decanters to her with all the zeal of a red-hot lover.

I had more or less had enough by now, and the need for fresh air was strong. The last person to have proved beyond a reasonable doubt that he had felt less than warm in Harrods was presented with a hamper and given a round of applause. Nothing of the kind had ever happened to me, my entire body assuming all the patina and allure of a Sumo wrestler whenever I'm in the place. But now I was thrashing through the doors into the blissful sleet of the Brompton Road and I thought I would chance a taxi. The Green Man courteously ignored me and then I heard, "Is him! Kill Kill!" and it was the lady in the pathmark and I thought I shouldn't bother with a cab after all for it seemed such a nice afternoon for a run. Joseph Connolly

Roger Scruton Dr Owen's faulty prescription

It is an established convention that the prime minister seeks recommendations from the leaders of the other main political parties before advising the Queen as to who might fittingly be named in a list of honours. The present Labour leader has adopted a policy of making no recommendations; in the circumstances, this is to be expected. It is more surprising to find the same policy pursued by the leader of the SDP. For the SDP's appeal rests in its claim to combine broadly socialist - or at least interventionist - policies with an underlying respect for the principles and procedures of the British constitution.

Of course, a constitution is a living, changing thing, with vital, and also decaying, parts. The Labour Party believes the House of Lords to be already decayed and fit for amputation. No doubt it believes the same of the honours system. However, if Labour has a serious principle from which such conclusions follow, it is that the entire constitution, in so far as it limits the power of a future socialist government, is a nuisance, and had better be done away with. Not so the SDP, which respects the idea of constitutional government and owes its success to the public belief that it would not, as Labour promises to do, make "irreversible" changes in its own favour. If it rejects the idea of political honours, therefore, it is for some other reason than hostility to the principle of constitution.

As things stand, political honours serve two very important purposes. First, because they include peerages, they enable the prime minister to ensure that the Upper House contains members valued by the opposing parties, and competent to speak for them. If Dr Owen believes - as he seems to believe - in the persistence of the House of Lords, ought he not to ensure that his party is properly represented in it? Secondly, and more importantly, political honours serve the function of debanking politics. Honours issue from the Crown, and are granted for services to the Crown and to the people represented in the person and office of the monarch. All of us are grateful when our favourite actor, conductor or footballer is honoured. For the Crown is the symbolic representative of a community and, by concurring in our private enthusiasms, it gives them public authority and objective force. Politicians may also be honoured, and when this happens, the status of the individual is raised, while that of politics is lowered. We come to see that honour is higher than power, and that power does not suffice (although it may help) to secure it. Through the system of honours, therefore, the public is enabled to perceive two vital distinctions: that between authority and power, and that between the sovereign state and

the powers which strive for influence within it. Honours clarify the logic of politics, and emphasize precisely what is most precious in our constitution, which is that political power is at every point checked and diminished by the authority which stems from another source. By highlighting a politician, the Queen reminds him that it is she, not he, who rules the country. And in accepting the honours, the politician shows his loyalty not only to the sovereign but also to the constitution which diminishes his power.

Moreover, the honouring of politicians, while it lowers the status of their calling, also reconciles the public to them, by showing that politics is, after all, as honourable as football. Politicians should be grateful for this. However, such is the arrogance of their profession that they frequently affect to despise these "innocent tokens of public esteem", believing themselves to enjoy the eminence that can only be diminished by symbols as ceremonial and ineffective as a knighthood or a CBE.

Politicians who reject the honours system should therefore be looked upon with the gravest suspicion. They may, like Mr Benn, affect an unworried contempt for dignities and titles, a righteous refusal of all personal reward for their services to a higher cause. But you can be fairly sure that their real motive is quite different from that which they would like you to ascribe to them. Their real motive is power, and the desire to ensure that power becomes the single source of worldly influence, and the final title to respect. By appropriating all honour to themselves and their calling, politicians hope to extinguish the major limitation of their power: the Crown itself, which is the true representative of the British people.

Since Dr Owen believes in limited politics, and lacks the Labour Party's philistine contempt for custom, he ought to show his acceptance of our way of life and institutions in the most painless manner available to him. He should endorse the system of honours by making his own suggestions for future beneficiaries. No doubt he was as pleased as the majority of British subjects at the peerages conferred on Len Murray and Frank Chapple. No doubt he too was delighted that Naomi Mitchison, tireless champion of the true Fabian persuasion, should have been honoured alongside the greatest Wagner conductor since Furtwängler. But to feel this delight, while not supporting the institution from which it flows, is to neglect a vital public duty, obedience to which may, yet prove necessary to the SDP's survival. The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

Peter Kellner And e'er the twain shall meet

This morning I can announce the solution to a mystery. Last week the BBC's Today programme announced that its listeners had chosen Arthur Scargill as man of the year and Margaret Thatcher as woman of the year. How, it was asked, could the intelligent audience of such an excellent programme come to such a perverse pair of conclusions?

The answer is simple. It flows from the fact that the programme insisted on two winners: one man and one woman. In fact there was a single victor. The prize should have gone to the androgynous personality who has transformed British politics - Martha Scarthatch.

Scarthatch is a special kind of leader. S/he is a conviction politician who plays to win, and refuses to accept the best available compromise. "Give and take" does not figure in Scarthatch's vocabulary; "moderate" is a term of abuse. If Scarthatch were a chess player there would be no question of ever offering or accepting a draw; each game would be fought to a final checkmate, even if that took months.

For Scarthatch's supporters - on picket lines, in boardrooms and among the most strident journalists in papers large and small - such death-or-glory approach to everything is exhilarating. Each challenge is clear-cut; each issue is simple. There is no need to be distracted by morale-sapping doubts: either we win or they do, and blow the rules.

The miners' strike has revealed the true character of Scarthatch politics. The present strike is quite different from previous disputes. The findings of the Wilberforce inquiry in 1972 and the Relativity Commission in 1974 gave the miners largely what they wanted but the point was that the process by which those disputes were settled commanded almost universal respect.

(One of the enduring fallacies of our age is that the miners destroyed the Heath government in 1974 and won their strike only because Labour won the election. In fact the miners' victory was the result of Mr Heath's decision to mount a relativity inquiry into miners' pay; that inquiry unearthed evidence that confirmed the miners' case quite independently of the fact that a general election campaign was under way.)

Scarthatch's approach is to resolve the miners' strike not by widening the area of consent, but by highlighting the degree of conflict. S/he enthusiastically promotes the rival class interests - a battle long deferred by the conciliatory, ramby-gambly approach of past leaders. Scarthatch takes pride in both delivering and accepting insults about "the enemy within".

Absolutely central to this approach is the need for unquestioning loyalty by Scarthatch's supporters. Scarthatch was elected on a platform that explicitly repudiated the style of the previous leadership; but having obtained that mandate, s/he sees little need for further ballots - on whether to strike, for example, or who should run the coal board, or who should be chairman of the Conservative Party.

Instead, Scarthatch offers leadership and demands obedience. It is only by securing discipline in the ranks that s/he can hope for victory. From this it follows that doubters must be silenced. Dissenters are not regarded as people with a legitimate right to speak their mind; they are regarded with the utmost contempt as "scabs" or "wags". If Scarthatch had anything to do with it, s/he would never speak to them again.

Instead Scarthatch has developed the great populist facility of using television to speak directly to the public. In each interview s/he knows exactly what s/he wants to say, and says it, whatever the interviewer asks. "If you will allow me to finish, Sir Robin", is a favourite Scarthatch expression. S/he takes great care, too, over the way s/he looks: no appearance can take place until every golden strand of Scarthatch's hair is carefully in place.

The impact of Scarthatch politics is likely to endure. One specific consequence concerns the role of the police. Scarthatch has no time for the traditional view that the police today perform a neutral role. Instead, s/he sees the police force as an arm of the state. S/he believes passionately - along with most Marxists and members of the Institute of Directors - that there are fundamental defects in Britain's social system; and in any conflict that results, it is inevitable that the police will be required to take sides.

In the long run I do not believe Scarthatch politics will survive, because its accumulating costs will prove unacceptable to voters. What is less clear is who will benefit from its defeat. There could be no more savage irony than if it were to be the Liberal/SDP Alliance. For although the Alliance appears to be the exact antithesis of everything Scarthatch stands for, they share one lethal obsession: a conviction that there exists no legitimate and rational opposite political group with whom power should alternate.

What David Owen and Steel, like Martha Scarthatch, fear most in 1985 is a revival of tolerant and compassionate Labour and Conservative parties. The rest of us can only hope that those fears prove to be empty justifications. The author is political editor of the New Statesman.



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EDUCATING TEACHERS

Public education is at a turning point. As a statement of demographic fact, that is unexceptionable. The next half-decade will inevitably require the reorganisation of schools and the redistribution of teachers as the system adjusts to the trough in numbers of primary school children, and an approach to the minimum of those in secondary schools. Local authority schools could advance, their teachers freshly motivated for the task of giving youth the stimulus and anchorage to face a world of economic change. In so doing the teachers would re-build a public confidence jarred by the precipitate and ideological reorganisation of secondary schooling. They might recruit new parents, employers and communities dismayed by professional *amour propre* that not only built a thick wall around the classroom but concealed also the enthusiastic response of many teachers, in their laboratories and curriculum discussions, to the new technologies and opportunities of the 1980s.

At issue now is the realism of a proud profession, one of whose enduring traits has been a slight distance from the commons and goings of a hard world. The career structure for school teachers is unsatisfactory: it provides too few incentives for younger teachers, it rewards the wrong qualities, it is ill-suited to the shake out that demography and curriculum change demand. Sir Keith Joseph's outline of a new structure binged on new tests of teachers' prowess - as described at the North of England Education Conference on Friday - is an alien intervention; it follows closely the proposals from the local authorities published last autumn.

Questions abound. What is the role in this assessment for parents, for employers, for other members of schools' sadly-under-utilized governing bodies? Where are the safeguards against mariners in the head-teacher's study? The construction of a career for the good teacher who is to be encouraged to remain in the classroom rather than become an administrator for the sake of "promotion" will be costly and Sir Keith must be more specific on how far change can be financed from the pool, how much additional cash is required.

These are points for negotiation but a principle needs firmly and clearly to be struck now. Professionalism - for example, the commitment to a job that leads teachers to give up leisure hours - is a valuable dimension to the public employment of teachers. But professionalism cannot substitute for managerial discipline. The division between teachers' pay and teachers' hours and quality of work evident in the split between the Burnham negotiating machinery and local authority conditions of service committees is a nonsense made no more acceptable by the fact that in five years Mrs Thatcher's government has not dared tamper with the Remuneration of Teachers Act. What Sir Keith is belatedly proposing is the application to the schools of the simplest - and highest - norms of management, by measuring hours and quality of work against payment. Nothing in such a project need damage the ethical dimension of education. In present circumstances, teachers have everything to gain.

To effect change Sir Keith's tools are cumbersome. Ultimately he can promulgate national regulations, yet even those would require the sincere adherence of both local authorities and head teachers. Persuasion is a preferable method to compulsion, and it is a pity that Sir Keith does not have, like some of his predecessors at education, more of the touch of the propagandist, able to communicate the validity of his schemes to the classroom teacher whose anxieties are genuine but whose desire for a better-ordered school is great. Against Sir Keith stand one, perhaps more, of the teachers' unions. A month ago, the National Union of Teachers walked out of negotiations with the local authorities on reforming the career structure; the same union, channelling the hopes and fears of its members into the single conduit of "militant" action, often led locally by political militants who would be the first to be exposed by a better system of teacher appraisal, threatens months of disruption.

Against this barrier to educational progress - a union whose leaders seem to have learnt their rhetoric in Mr Scargill's school of blue-collar negativism - Sir Keith has two weapons. He must, one, continue to preach the gospel of qualitative change and, perhaps, reveal more of his sweeteners for the new professional career teacher. But, second, he must refuse the NUT claim of more money for nil change in educational and professional practice. To budge would be conclusively to throw away the once-for-all opportunities for reform thrown up by these unprecedented reductions in numbers of children at school.

NEW NEW CALEDONIA

When central government faces a violent separatist minority and a passionately unionist majority in the same territory, British minds inevitably turn to Ulster. The French government has at least two such problems on its hands at present. The less serious is in Corsica: it is a mess but not yet a hopeless one, because, as we remarked last Summer there is "no clear religious - cultural demarcation of majority and minority".

At the other end of the world, but still French, lies New Caledonia. There the divide is not religious (many of the natives are Catholic) but most definitely cultural and, what is worse, racial. Those who want independence are native Kanaks (Melanesians). Those who want to stay French are settlers - mainly French but needing to carry other immigrant labourers from less remote places along with them to tip the arithmetical balance in their favour.

The forces are so evenly balanced that there is no real chance of either acquiescing peacefully in the other's victory. So Mr Edgard Pisani, President Mitterand's special envoy, has looked for a way of giving both of them the essence of what they want: an independent state with all the trappings of sovereignty, such as UN membership, for the Kanaks, but continued association with France, which would remain responsible for the territory's external defence and internal security, for the settlers, whose rights would be guaranteed. The capital, Noumea, would have a special self-governing status taking the bizarre form of a long-term lease from the independent government to a special mixed committee.

An ingenious proposal, but one which apparently defies a primary rule of logic: the law of the excluded middle. A state, one would think, is either independent or not. The presence of foreign forces is not the litmus test, but their use when it comes to internal security surely is. Are they to take orders from the independent government? If so, how can France guarantee the position of the settlers after independence? If not, how can the state be called sovereign? The precedent of the 1969 constitution in Cyprus, with its similar combination of equal foreign communal rights and foreign guarantees, comes to mind. It is hardly encouraging.

It is not hard to foresee that the crunch would come on the issue of land ownership or at least land use. A Kanak-dominated government would be bound to try to reclaim some land from the settlers, and any resistance from the settlers would turn the problem into one of internal security, which France would then have to arbitrate.

But politics often have to defy the laws of logic, and it is by no means certain that M Pisani's critics have any better solution to offer. The settler demand for a simple reassertion of law, and order is hardly good enough, given the delicate demographic balance and the fact that many of the settlers are of very recent vintage. It is here that the parallel with Ulster most obviously breaks down - unless it were to be drawn with Ulster of the 1640s rather than the 1980s.

The most obvious and immediate problem is to get a majority for M Pisani's proposals in a referendum. Apparently the Kanaks are willing to give them a try, presumably reckoning they represent the best that can be achieved before a French right-wing government returns to power and that nominal sovereignty once achieved would naturally tend to develop into real sovereignty. The settlers, fearing just that and having every reason to hope for a French right-wing government next year, will be difficult if not impossible to win over. Will the disenfranchisement of those who have less than three years' residence be sufficient to tip the scales? It will be a very near thing. Is more violence, before and after the poll, the only thing that New Caledonians can confidently expect?

On official tours abroad the Queen carried 121 engagements, the Duke of Edinburgh 238, Queen Mother 9, the Prince of Wales 112, the Princess of Wales 5, Prince Andrew 44, Princess Anne 233 and Princess Margaret 25.

In addition, the Queen held 45 investitures and the Queen Mother 3. As in previous years, I have not included the weekly audiences given by the Queen to the Prime Minister.

The confinement and the birth of Prince Henry considerably reduced the number of engagements. The Princess of Wales was able to carry out:

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- 2. Receptions, lunches, dinners and banquets.
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THE LIFE OF THE SOVIET MINER

Donbass miners have contributed a million troubles to striking British miners as a demonstration of solidarity, according to Tass reports. As if to prove how well Soviet miners are integrated into the government of the USSR, Mr Gorbachev's delegation to Britain included a section head from a Donetsk mine, Mr Ivan Sirechenko, who is in the youth affairs commission of the Supreme Soviet. Not only the British families that enjoyed Black Sea holidays are impressed by labour relations in the USSR, the English-language broadcasts of Moscow Radio frequently carry interviews with visiting British trade-unionists who praise the absence of unemployment, strikes and class barriers.

We have indeed many severe labour problems requiring urgent solution, and should of course be prepared to learn from other societies. But the real lessons of how workers live in the USSR are often concealed behind the propaganda mirage and Potemkin village of the official tour. There is in fact unemployment, although on a relatively small scale; there is no unemployment benefit; however, there are occasional strikes and even some evidence of major worker riots when tens of thousands of demonstrators were suppressed by troops and ring-leaders later executed. It is usually years before the first western reports of

these disturbances can be properly substantiated.

More widespread, however, are the difficulties caused by underemployment and miserably low wages. At the official rate of exchange the Soviet miners' troubles are worth almost as many pounds, but since roubles cannot legally be taken out of the USSR, a Soviet tourist would be lucky to buy even the present shrinking pound for each muddled five-rouble note. The average industrial worker receives less than 300 roubles a month, including various allowances from public funds. Rents are very low, but so are housing standards. The Soviet press gives some shocking examples: a new five-storey block of flats collapsed just before it was due to be occupied; another has no services long after the first residents have moved in.

This makes the Soviet miners' stature all the more generous, if truly given. They are better paid than most workers in the USSR, but suffer from the same periodic shortages of even the most mundane consumer goods, from socks to scissors, from flour to meat, wasting hours in queues and black-market quests. But vodka can always be found, and alcoholism is a major problem.

Trade-union officials, chosen by the party rather than their fellow workers, devote their efforts to increasing production

rather than to improving pay and conditions. Mining accidents and illnesses were reported by *Trud* to be rising in the deep narrow seams of many older Donetsk mines, now approaching exhaustion, work is deplorably hard and dangerous. Vladimir Klebanov, a miner who tried to establish a free trade union, told western correspondents about the high rate of deaths and injuries; he was incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital. The mining engineer Aleksei Nikitin suffered the same fate because he revealed the truth about a fatal explosion. He died last year after deliberate mistreatment.

The few western experts who have had permission to visit Donetsk coalmines reported levels of methane gas well above the danger level for explosions; safety equipment was decades out of date. There is no excuse for people in the West who make naive claims about the superiority of working conditions in the USSR. It is not necessary to read Russian or to go down a Soviet mine to learn the truth. There are many reliable eye-witness reports and scholarly analyses (see for instance *The Soviet Worker*, edited by Leonard Schapiro and Joseph Godson, Macmillan, 1984) which demonstrate that however we seek to improve our labour relations, it will not be by following Moscow's example.

A stark choice for Ireland

From Lord Lytton
 Sir, On Christmas Eve you reported the Cardinal Primate of all Ireland as saying that there would be no change in Northern Ireland whilst Prime Minister Thatcher remained Mrs Minister.

From a lower level of importance I suggest that there will be no change in Southern Ireland whilst Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich remains Primate.

The change sought by the cardinal is acceptance of Irish unity by the North. By contrast the change sought by many of us is acceptance of British unity by the South.

Reverting to 1922, I witnessed in grief and indignation the partition of the British Isles to appease Dublin. At the time I suspected that such a move was not in accord with the wishes of the majority. In this clearly I was mistaken.

Being a fervent adherent of the right to political self-determination wherever possible (art. 1 of the UN Charter) I have long come to support the "freedom" of Southern Ireland from Westminster.

The right claimed by Dublin from Westminster some 60 years ago is the same right which Belfast claims from Dublin and which Dublin has denied for some sixty years.

To my sorrow I have witnessed other prime ministers selling minorities "down the river" in the interest of peace - a peace to be followed by instant war sustained by the British taxpayer.

The ills of Northern Ireland have at their root a Dublin statute which, in my eyes, puts Northern patriots in a slot with traitors and Northern terrorists with crusaders for freedom in the odour of sanctity.

Unity would bring no solution - rather it would precipitate the culminating disaster for all Ireland. Without total recognition of permanent partition, as permanent as the partition between Dublin and Westminster, there will be no progress of note, and the cardinals of the twentieth century will not be free from blame.

Yours faithfully,
 LYTTON,
 House of Lords.

Coalmining questions awaiting reply

From the General Secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation
 Sir, Earlier this week Mr Michael Eaton, of the Coal Board, spoke of a need for a negotiated settlement irrespective of the numbers of miners who return to work.

His wisdom should not be allowed to go by default, but it seems to me that any settlement is highly unlikely unless and until there is sufficient clarification of Britain's future energy policy.

There is now a strong case for much more information than we have about the future balance between the major sources of energy; especially we need to know the basis on which that balance is to be struck.

As it is, we are unable, any of us, to see the whole picture. Yet miners are being urged to come to terms with a situation so unclear that it remains distinctly threatening to them.

To the best of my knowledge, it has never been stated authoritatively that, over the next decade, there will not be a 70,000 to 100,000 reduction in the number of miners. Whatever reduction may be in prospect, again, it has never been explained or justified except on the now very questionable and certainly controversial concept of the "uneconomic pit".

So what are some of the areas upon which light should be shed? To start with there is energy pricing policy, the impact of the Government's "sided on capital" targets and the borrowing limits placed upon the NCB. By definition these have to be arbitrary and artificial. The CEBR, I understand, could have saved £85 million in 1983-84 burning coal instead of oil. The price of electricity has gone up 60 per cent since 1980 against a retail price index rise of 34 per cent.

There is the issue of coal imports. It is alleged that currently most that comes to Britain is dumped. But extensive new overseas supplies will

soon be available, given the large investment by oil companies in coalmining, notably in cheap-labour areas - South Africa and South America.

Of course we must ensure both national security and supply security; but there are environmental and social considerations as well as economic ones. So it is pertinent to enquire whether present policy is influenced, and if so to what degree, by the huge revenue yield from petroleum.

Lastly, it is surely not good enough to say that Mr Scargill's absolutism on "uneconomic pits" is untenable without, at the same time, declaring as unsatisfactory the NCB's very doubtful formula.

A pit's economic performance is clearly related to the scale of investment in it. Calculations of the cost-effectiveness of further investment should embrace the social and DoE/DHSS costs which would arise without it.

We are entitled to expect the minister, now that a strike (estimated to have cost £2.4 billion so far) has brought the whole energy issue to the surface, to provide answers.

May I urge Mr Walker to reflect. Energy policy is critical for the whole economy. We need a blueprint of that policy on to which could be grafted a revised Plan for Coal.

If the secretary of state convinced those immediately concerned that he would bring this about and in an acceptable way then perhaps the National Coal Board could suspend the closure plan *indefinitum* and the National Union of Mineworkers could accept that there will be some closures for reasons other than exhaustion or safety - and return to work.

Yours faithfully,
 TONY CHRISTOPHER,
 Inland Revenue Staff Federation,
 Douglas Horton House,
 251 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1,
 January 4.

Nuclear deterrence

From Lord Trenchard
 Sir, Do you not over-emphasize the importance of what differences there are between the USA and the UK on defence and deterrence in your leader of December 28?

I suggest first that both countries know that for the next decade or more peace must be underwritten by the deterrent knowledge in the mind of the potential aggressor that offensive nuclear weapons could, or would, be used to halt or repel aggression should they be needed.

Secondly, I suggest that the governments of the USA and the UK have not swallowed the Russian propaganda that any use of a nuclear weapon in defence would lead to retaliation by the aggressor rather than the cessation of that aggression. The latter is the more logical because the objectives of the aggressor would have become unattainable at any conceivably acceptable cost.

Thirdly, I suggest that there is complete agreement that provided we do not let the Russians doubt our will in these respects there will continue to be no aggression but peace in Europe.

Fourthly, I suggest that everyone knows that both superpowers will continue to work on ABM (anti-ballistic missile) land and satellite-based systems. After all, one purpose of advanced missile systems like Trident is to ensure potential penetration into the next century and thus the continuance of credible deterrence should that be necessary and should adequate agreements

with Russia not by then have been made.

Fifthly, I believe that the experts on both sides know that it is no more likely in the future than it has been in the past that defensive systems will gain any permanent superiority over offensive systems, particularly in three-dimensional air or space. Cleverer technology will be applied to both. This will include technology which can be varied at the last moment. This would seem to increase the advantage of surprise which has always been held by the offensive.

The idea that Western technology can make defensive weapons superior is, to my mind, a mixture of a highly desirable aim and wishful thinking. The same applies to the other fashionable desire to raise the nuclear threshold by developing cleverer conventional weapons and thus offset the massive Russian preponderance in numbers.

Both are excellent aims, but until there is evidence that the technological gap in favour of the West has ceased its shrinking trend and started to widen again, it would be folly to base defence policy on such wishful thoughts. I believe this is well understood on both sides of the Atlantic.

In democracies allowance must be made for the different phrasing of desirable nice-sounding but sometimes wishful politically inspired initiatives. Are the differences over policy really any more than that?

Yours sincerely,
 TRENCHARD,
 House of Lords.

Royal engagements

From Mr T. C. M. O'Donovan
 Sir, I have again carried out a survey of the engagements carried out by the Royal Family during 1984, as reported in your Court Circular.

The Queen carried 121 engagements, the Duke of Edinburgh 238, Queen Mother 9, the Prince of Wales 112, the Princess of Wales 5, Prince Andrew 44, Princess Anne 233 and Princess Margaret 25.

In addition, the Queen held 45 investitures and the Queen Mother 3. As in previous years, I have not included the weekly audiences given by the Queen to the Prime Minister.

The confinement and the birth of Prince Henry considerably reduced the number of engagements. The Princess of Wales was able to carry out:

- 1. Official visits, opening ceremonies, and other appearances.
- 2. Receptions, lunches, dinners and banquets.
- 3. Meetings, including the Privy Council.
- 4. Audiences given.
- 5. Number of days spent travelling abroad on official tours.

On official tours abroad the Queen carried 121 engagements, the Duke of Edinburgh 238, Queen Mother 9, the Prince of Wales 112, the Princess of Wales 5, Prince Andrew 44, Princess Anne 233 and Princess Margaret 25.

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Put to rights

From Mr Charles Wintour
 Sir, Your diary item (January 3) about the suggestion that I should edit the *UK Press Gazette* is quite inaccurate in saying that I am an almost obsessive critic of "bingo and the gutter press". I have no objection to money games as an element in the entertainment mix of a tabloid. What I dislike is the escalation of the prizes to the millionaire level, with all tabloids involved except for the *Mail* newspapers, cannot make economic sense and which has grossly distorted editorial news values on any number of occasions.

Yes, as always, wrong, so far as I know, in stating that Clive Sandground is to be literary editor.

At a time when you are devoting so much space to hosannas of self-praise you might give a little more attention to accuracy. How are the mighty fallen, indeed.

Yours faithfully,
 CHARLES WINTOUR,
 Top Flat, 5 Alwyne Road, NI.

Embryo research

From Dr M. G. R. Hull
 Sir, Church ministers, through your columns and members of Parliament (through Hansard) would have complete respect for the human embryo in defence would lead to fertilisation. But neither religions nor Parliament do so in fact. They do not allow burial in sacred ground nor require registration of a birth until 28 weeks' gestation.

There is not a deadline accepted by clinical scientists, who do their utmost to save babies born several weeks before it. And what of parliamentary legislation of induced abortion? There is no logic to it. But that is beside the point.

The point is the distinction between human material and human nature. The Reverend Dr N. M. de S. Cameron refers (December 5) to his toe-nail clippings, but he would not cut them to the quick; it hurts. Sensibility determines the respect we give living things.

It is reasonable to distinguish a system of nerves to transmit sensory impulses from where they are "felt" to the brain where they are actually recognised. Thus whilst human nature depends on a particular genetic code carried by every human cell it can only be expressed through complex organisation of the cells.

The first signs of the nervous system appear in the human embryo after more than two weeks. In the first week the cells of the embryo are so lacking in organisation that any one of them could, if split off, develop into a complete human being. The newly fertilised egg is a wonderful thing, but it does not yet have human nature.

There are many people who accept that but are fearful of where experimentation on such cells could lead. It obviously must not lead to the growing of research of human beings, that is, even at an early foetal stage, with human form and feelings.

Dreadful possibilities are used as reason enough to clamp down totally on the scientists. But there are dreadful possibilities in everyday life, human nature being what it is, and laws to protect against them.

Lord Denning's contention, that the only logical point at which the law could start is at the moment of fertilisation is entirely legalistic. It is simply convenient, but neither logical nor appropriate. Scientists in the field of human *in-vitro* fertilisation welcome regulation, but let us not be overruled.

Yours faithfully,
 MICHAEL HULL,
 Bristol Maternity Hospital,
 Bristol, Avon.

Royal Irish Rangers

From General Sir George Cooper
 Sir, I hope that Lord Cork and Orrery's letter (December 28) will not fool anybody with its special pleading. He states that the Royal Irish Rangers "are the only fully Irish regiment remaining in the Army List and recruiting almost wholly in Ireland" and bases his subsequent (military) argument on this fact.

What about the 5th The Buffs (East Kent) who are the only fully English regiment remaining in the Army List and recruiting almost wholly in England? Or the 1st The Green Jackets (The Royal Buffs) who are the only fully Welsh regiment remaining in the Army List and recruiting almost wholly in Wales? Or the 1st The Green Jackets (The Royal Buffs) who are the only fully Scottish regiment remaining in the Army List and recruiting almost wholly in Scotland?

He then goes on to state that "the Ballymena depot is the only permanent regular base in Northern Ireland". What about the bases in Belfast, Londonderry, Omagh and Ballykintyre which were regular Army barracks long before Ballymena was built?

He suggests that to remove the training depot from Ballymena will be seen as the first move in the withdrawal of the British Army from the province. What nonsense! We have been withdrawing forces from Northern Ireland regularly for some years as the degree of violence lessens - it is a sign of confidence in our ability to combat terrorism.

The depot at Ballymena has been under-utilised for years, with most of the recruits for the Irish Rangers coming from Srennall - no commercial or industrial firm would tolerate such under-usage for a moment. Sadly, firms are constantly withdrawing from Northern Ireland as the economic considerations dictate but this is not put down to surrendering to the IRA.

To remove the training element of the Irish Rangers from Northern Ireland is both logical and timely. All the other Irish regiments already train their recruits elsewhere so there is no precedent involved; to say that stopping a few weeks of

recruit training "would be to strike a blow at the regiment from which it might never entirely recover" is laughable in its exaggeration. Our infantry regiments are made of sterner stuff.

I am not privy to MoD deliberations, but I imagine there would be no objection to the regimental headquarters remaining in Ballymena if that is what the regiment desired, but let us not procrastinate further over the rationalisation of the training.

Letters such as those from Lord Cork and Orrery are red herrings - the Government is adamant that Northern Ireland remains part of the United Kingdom and the training of a few recruits elsewhere will not affect that resolve, and the IRA knows this.

Yours faithfully,
 GEORGE COOPER,
 The Army & Navy Club,
 Pall Mall, SW1,
 December 29.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 8 1919
 The Spartakusbund or Spartacus League was formed in Germany in 1914 by Rosa Luxemburg, together with Karl Liebknecht. Its aim was to end the war through revolution but its influence on the course of the war was slight. The two were assassinated in Berlin in January 1919 following the proclamation of the Republic in November 1918. After the armistice the movement had a degree of acclaim in the country and was a factor in the many armed clashes in Berlin during January 1919.

SCENES IN THE STREETS MUCH EXCITEMENT AND LITTLE BLOODSHED

BERLIN: JAN 6.
 The appearance of the streets in the neighbourhood of the Imperial Chancellery and facing the Chancellery itself is comparatively calm. Occasional rifle firing is heard and now and then a cannon-shot, but the impression is that blank cartridges are being used. Someone has just been brought out of the Chancellery, but it cannot be a wounded man. Armoured motor-cars with soldiers arrive without intermission others leave with arms and ammunition.

It appears that Liebknecht's supporters have not the courage to risk a conflict at present. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of the population are demonstrating for the Government. Bloodstains are noticeable in Friedrichstrasse, but compared with the scene in the Wilhelmstrasse the street presents a rather pleasing appearance. Here they are firing, there they are firing.

Little change occurred up to half-past 5. Only here and there is a shot discharged. The soldiers in front of the Imperial Chancellery are armed and the whole plaza and neighbouring streets are shut off. There is still a crowd of about 10,000 behind the military cordon. A seaman throws a hand-grenade on the plaza and two wounded are removed by a Red Cross messenger. The gas of the seaman excites the crowd and shortly afterwards the seaman is removed being himself severely wounded. Some wounded are reported in front of the Imperial Chancellery. *Parlamentarier* appear at half-past 4 in the front of the Chancellery and request admission in order to negotiate. But the Government rejects any negotiation, and informs the crowd from a window in the Chancellery that it has paid no attention to the agitation to-day, but it will not tolerate it to-morrow. Volunteers will be appealed for, and there are sufficient arms. Recruiting offices will be opened, and arms and ammunition will be distributed to soldiers and civilians. The Government will round up the Spartacus people to-morrow in their nests and smoke out the nests themselves. Troops loyal to the Government are approaching with gas.

Meanwhile, there has been firing in Unter den Linden, and it is said that three persons have been wounded. In the Wilhelmstrasse later on the public were told to go home. The stream of the people discharges itself into the neighbourhood of Unter den Linden and the Friedrichstrasse flowing along both sides of the street. Liebknecht's supporters on the left, while on the right the crowd raises cheers for Ebert and Scheidemann. At 6 o'clock guns were trained from the Castle on the Wilhelmstrasse. There was also firing in front of the War Ministry, resulting in three passers-by being wounded and two apparently killed. Altogether so far, the killed and wounded number 20.

When we were young

From Mr Tom Baistow
 Sir, As the reprint you published on January 2 reveals, John Walter I was able to produce the first issue of your newspaper in 1785 with only half-a-dozen minor printers' literals and one duplicated paragraph, despite all the difficulties involved in a pioneering project.

Would it be possible, in the interest of the sensibilities of your pre-Portifolio readers, to reintroduce the ingenious logographic system, "cementing several letters together" to form whole words, to which I refers in his p 1 puff?

Yours faithfully,
 TOM-BAISTOW,
 Saville Club,
 69 Brook Street, W1,
 January 4.

A peal for the 200

From Mr R. M. Wood
 Sir, It is traditional in this country to mark special events by the ringing of church bells. This may take the form of a full peal, which is defined as being not less than 5,000 changes, all different. A full peal is the ultimate performance on church bells and takes about three hours, depending on the weight and number of bells. All full peals are recorded and published in the ringers' newspaper, *The Ringing World*.

On January 1 eight members of the Lichfield Archdeaconry Society of Change Ringers rang a full peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major at Godsal, in Staffordshire, a bicentenary compliment to *The Times*. The peal took 2 hours 43 minutes.

Congratulations and best wishes for the next 200 years.

Yours faithfully,
 R. M. WOOD,
 137 Netherbridge Avenue,
 Lichfield,
 Staffordshire,
 January 2.

Scant courtesies

From Mrs Susan Thomson
 Sir, In a computer print-out relating to my work (I am a peripatetic violin teacher) I am registered by the education authority as follows: Initial S (side Mrs Sex F).

Yours faithfully,
 SUSAN THOMSON,
 35 Eley Drive,
 Rottingdean,
 Brighton,
 Sussex,
 December 18.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various companies like Girdard Hat, Glynco, and others.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares at new peak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Dec 24. Dealings End, Jan 11. Settlement Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1954-55 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

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OIL Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Shell, Esso, and others.

OVERSEAS TRADERS Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Anglo-Siam, Anglo-Siam, and others.

INSURANCE Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Lloyds, Lloyds, and others.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Newsprint, Newsprint, and others.

LEISURE Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Holiday, Holiday, and others.

MINING Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Gold, Gold, and others.

L-R Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like L-R, L-R, and others.

HOTELS AND CATERERS Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Hotel, Hotel, and others.

INDUSTRIALS A-D Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Industrial, Industrial, and others.

CINEMAS AND TV Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Cinema, Cinema, and others.

DRAPERY AND STORES Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Drapery, Drapery, and others.

UNDATED Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Undated, Undated, and others.

INDEX Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Index, Index, and others.

BREWERIES Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Brewery, Brewery, and others.

SHIPPING Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Shipping, Shipping, and others.

SHOES AND LEATHER Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Shoes, Shoes, and others.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Motors, Motors, and others.

TEXTILES Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Textiles, Textiles, and others.

S-Z Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like S-Z, S-Z, and others.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Newspapers, Newspapers, and others.

TOBACCO Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists companies like Tobacco, Tobacco, and others.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The Post Office way to people's capitalism

Had your eyes strayed from the picture of Selina Scott on page 13 of The Times yesterday you would not have missed a large advertisement: "The Easy Way to Buy Gilts."

The method advertised is not new: for years the National Savings Stock Register, usually referred to still as the Post Office Register, has been gently gathering dust and about £1 billion of stock - a tiny fraction of gilts in issue. It needs little imagination however, to see the central role the NSSR might play in the people's capitalism.

Why, in fact, are we waiting? Did no one in Whitehall think of opening the register to British Telecom shares, admittedly not a government stock but a symbolic issue in its historic relationship with the Post Office and the first great propagation in Britain of popular share ownership?

There are two advantages of buying government securities by picking up a form at the Post Office and despatching it to the Bonds and Stock Office in Blackpool. The commission charged is very small and interest on stocks on the NSSR is paid without prior deduction of tax. It is not necessary to know or deal with a stockbroker or banker.

There are also disadvantages: the maximum amount of stock that may be bought in one day is £10,000, although there is no limit on the total amount invested, and no certainty that an order will be executed on the day it is received (and no certainty about the day it will be received). It may be, and if not it should be done the day after. As timing is one of the two essences of Stock Exchange dealing, the variable nature of the Post Office and the lack of instant response to orders might prove costly. There are two other disadvantages: not all government stocks can be dealt in through the Post Office, though the great majority can, and orders cannot be marked with a specific price.

If people's capitalism is to become more than a gleam in Mrs Thatcher's eye and not die with the submission of Telecom telephone vouchers, better marketing and vastly improved retail distribution of stocks and shares are the keys.

The Telecom flotation showed what could be done in selling shares to a wider public if sufficient able minds and adequate incentives were applied to the job. But selling or buying in the stockholder's case, is only a third or at best half the story. Investors need efficient and easily understood ways in which to sell and perhaps to deal. The NSSR is an existing mechanism crying out to be brought up to date and put to new work.

The opportunity does not slip with the register. British Telecom already had the technically excellent but grossly underplayed, interactive Prestel. Here the brokers Hoare, Govett has shown the way, offering a dealing system to owners of Prestel television sets who register with them as a closed user. For a commission of 1.65 per cent, the budding Baruch can sit at home in the evening and key in his instructions to Hoare, Govett.

Cassandra with an ambiguous look

M & G Group, one of the leading unit trust managers, today continues its almost single-handed role as the Cassandra of the City's rust to break down its traditional demarcation lines through the current series of proposed mergers among brokers, jobbers and bankers.

Hitherto David Hopkinson, the M & G's redoubtable managing director, has been a standard bearer of ethical

purity. But in the group's annual report the chairman, Andrew Caldecott, weighs in with a view that "ultimately we may be driven to the creation of the equivalent of a Securities and Exchange Commission. This would destroy a great deal of the flexibility and swiftness of action which have always been the City's hallmarks."

He reiterates the house line that the main danger is the new City combines will face irreconcilable conflicts of interest. More particularly, but no less importantly, Mr Caldecott adds his concern as to whether there will be an adequate market in the smaller equity issues so beloved of unit trusts and the smaller investor.

Just to underline the point, Mr Hopkinson takes up the cudgels - and in so doing demonstrates an intriguing ambiguity within M. & G.'s own orbit. He boasts: "We have always acted as agents rather than principals in relation to our clients and will continue doing so. We do not deal for our own account in securities."

That suggests that M. & G. does not own a single share. But then Mr Hopkinson goes on: "Our independence ensures that where we are large shareholders in companies, we are able to exercise responsible ownership."

The answer to this conundrum is that M. & G., in common with other unit trust companies, manages the shares on behalf of its unitholders. They are the ultimate owners. But in respect of many everyday decisions - buying and selling the shares, accepting or rejecting takeover bids, voting for or against the re-election of directors - M. & G. acts precisely as if it were the real shareholder, and its managers are treated as such by the companies in its portfolio.

M. & G. tacitly acknowledges this potential conflict by investing its own free reserves only in unit trusts, not directly in equities.

While Messrs Caldecott and Hopkinson loudly protest their autonomy, sceptics point to the fact that 42 per cent of its own share capital is held by Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank and active tactician in a never-ending stream of stock market deals and new issues. And Kleinwort is planning to buy both a broker and a jobber in the current merry-go-round.

Fair-weather friends desert gold

There is nothing worse for gold than falling commodity prices, redolent health for the world's number one reserve currency, a virtual absence of inflation fears and a new hope of East-West détente. A relentlessly strong dollar and apprehension about oil prices combined to force gold down to \$295 an ounce yesterday morning, the lowest London price since August 1979. It is widely expected that further falls are in store.

Physical demand carried the price up from the morning fix of \$296.25 to an afternoon fix of \$298.25. But amid brisk dealing the metal fell back later in the day to close at \$296.50, a full \$5 below Friday's close.

The pattern of trading indicated that each fall was succeeded by renewed interest by those who actually use gold, but this was in turn offset by profit taking by speculators holding short positions. The market psychology is that after several unsuccessful attempts to climb back over \$300 an ounce, gold is set to fall again.

Futures confirm this view. The February contract in London ended the day at \$298.50, an improvement on the opening of \$296.80, but \$8.50 below the close on Friday. Spot silver shed 17.5p to \$107.25p.

Gold's weaker tone was set early in the day by reports of Middle Eastern selling. But dealers said that the underlying factor was the attraction of the dollar and the possibility that dollar interest rates will rise again.

Indeed, the trouble with the magic metal is that it will only recover its fair-weather friends when there are renewed signs of gloom and financial disruption.

Pound falls to \$1.1445 despite forecasts of base rate rise

By David Smith and David Young

The pound dropped 93 points to a new closing low of \$1.1445 yesterday, despite market expectations of a small rise in bank base rates this week. The weakness in sterling, which at one stage traded at \$1.1400, helped push up money market interest rates.

Dealers cited dollar strength, uncertainty over oil prices and weekend confirmation of the official "hands-off" policy on the pound as contributing to the fall. The pound dropped nearly 1½ pence against mark to DM3.6375, and the sterling index fell 0.3 to 72.6.

The dollar was boosted by money supply figures for the United States, showing a \$6.7 billion rise in the latest reporting week. As well as oil price worries, the pound was hit by continental selling on concern over the miners' strike. Trading volume was brisk.

In the money markets, interest rates firmed again, the three-month interbank rate closing at 10½ to 10¾, up ¼ on Friday's closing level. The Volume of business was light

ahead of today's provisional money supply figures for banking December, but yesterday's money market rates could justify a rise in base rates from the present 9.5 to 9.75 per cent level to about 10.5 per cent.

The range of stockbrokers' forecasts for the money supply in banking December is wide, ranging from minus 1 per cent at Capel-Cure Myers, to plus 0.5 per cent at Grievson Grant and Laing & Cruickshank.

The bank lending figure is regarded as even more important than the crude sterling M3 rise on the month. The top of the range of brokers' forecasts suggests bank lending of slightly more than £2 billion during December. This will be regarded as a bearish sign for interest rates.

The most frequently heard view in the City yesterday was that "bad" money supply and bank lending figures, by which is meant anything more than a small rise in the sterling M3 measure of money, would not necessarily guarantee a base rate rise. However, it would leave



Peter Walker: £45 million cash injection for BNO

The pound open to oil price uncertainties and pose the threat of an even larger base rate rise later.

The Government's oil trading operation, the British National Oil Corporation appears to have accepted another month of trading losses by selling 800,000 barrels a day of its throughput from the North Sea during January at spot-market related prices. By selling its January output at spot-market prices BNO

appears to have gone along with requests from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to leave prices unchanged for at least a month.

The corporation had been expected to announce cuts this month in its official price structure no standing at \$28.65 a barrel compared to the official Opec price of \$29.

By buying in oil at its official price of \$28.65 from producers on contract and then selling it to refiners at spot-market rates often two dollars a barrel less BNO has been incurring losses between £15 million and £20 million a month. Mr Peter Walker the Secretary of State for Energy has approved a £45 million cash injection to cover losses.

In the first nine months of last year British demand for petroleum products rose by 16.2 per cent compared with the same period in 1983, reflecting increased oil burning during the miners' strike. Total consumption was 60.3 million tonnes, compared with 51.9 million tonnes in the same period in 1983.

IN BRIEF

Retail sales rise 4%

Retail sales volumes in November were 4 per cent up on the same period a year before. With September-October sales up 2.5 per cent on the previous three months, according to final seasonally-adjusted indices out yesterday from the Department of Trade and Industry, the November index was 115 (1980 = 100), a downward revision from the earlier provisional estimate of 115.4.

Given widespread trade reports of a late start to Christmas selling, the November increases were particularly encouraging, said the Retail Consortium, the body representing the majority of the retailers.

The 21 department stores of the John Lewis Partnership reported "quite excellent" December trading.

Credit slips

In November 1984 million of new credit was advanced to consumers by hire purchase and other specialist consumer credit outlets. Although this was slightly down, after seasonal adjustment, on October's high level of £1,008 million, the retail sales boom continues to be financed largely out of credit.

Profits soar

Ellis & Everard, distributors of industrial chemicals in Britain and the US, improved pretax profits by 61 per cent to £1.87 million for the six months ending October 31. Earnings per share, adjusted for the recent scrip and rights issues, are ahead by 23 per cent.

Tempus, page 17

Dr Dickson Mabon, the former Labour minister who was defeated as an SDP candidate in the 1983 general election, yesterday joined the board of Hollis Bros. & E.S.A., the school desk maker which is controlled by Pergamon Press - the main company of another ex-Labour MP, Mr Robert Maxwell.

Strong quarter

Official figures confirmed the strength of company profits in the third quarter. Excluding the North Sea, industrial and commercial company profits rose 15 per cent in the July-September period, to stand 20 per cent up on the same period of 1983.

Liffe surge

Turnover on the London International Financial Futures Exchange almost doubled in 1984 from 1.36 million to 2.59 million lots, the International Commodities Clearing House reported yesterday.

Financial services role for Deloitte

By Ian Griffiths

Deloitte Haskins and Sells is to become one of the first accountancy firms to take an active role in the financial services revolution with the creation of a separate corporate financial strategy division. The firm is now seeking an experienced City figure to head the unit which should be set up in the next few months.

Deloitte is also establishing a personal financial planning group designed to advise senior executives on pensions, investment strategy and taxation. The service will be launched at the end of the month.

The two new divisions will be staffed by present employees to a large extent although the firm will also be recruiting personnel with additional skills.

The moves are part of Deloitte's long-term strategy, agreed last summer before the merger with Price Waterhouse was known. Implementation was delayed during the merger negotiations which were abandoned before Christmas after the proposals failed to win the approval of PW's partners in Britain.

The firm has also restructured its senior management team. Mr John Bullock, who takes over as senior partner on May 1 when Mr Eric Meade retires, has appointed Mr Chris Stronge as deputy senior partner and Mr Alan McFetrich as managing partner from the same date.

Deloitte's venture into the financial services sector in such a clearly defined fashion is already being seen as direct competition to some of the more established operators, in particular the merchant banks.

The US Congress next month will launch a year-long series of hearings into the accountancy profession, focusing on its relationship to the largest business failures of 1984.

Mr John Dingell, the Democratic chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee, said he has scheduled the unusual hearings to examine the roles of both the large "big eight" firms and smaller companies in recent crises at institutions such as Penn Square National Bank, Continental Illinois National Bank and the Financial Corporation of America.

A Congressional aide said there is growing concern among Congressmen that false or misleading audits were involved in some of the more prominent business disasters last year.

Mr Dingell said his inquiry would cover these broad areas, among others: the independence of auditors, the adequacy of their disclosures, the industry's compliance with standards, and the effectiveness of industry self-regulation of accountancy firms which, in effect, certify the results of huge publicly-held companies.

US presses industry on EEC steel pact

From Bailey Morris Washington

Reagan Administration officials have scheduled a series of meetings today with US steelmakers to persuade them to accept a new accord on steel pipe and tube exports which they will hope end one of the most contentious trade issues in recent years.

The accord, announced early on Friday after telephone calls between officials in the US and Europe, would restrict European Economic Community exports of steel pipes and tubes to 7.6 per cent of the US market until the end of next year.

It was the second attempt in two months to resolve diplomatically the trade dispute. An earlier agreement negotiated in November collapsed when President Reagan decided to impose a ban on all European exports of steel pipes and tubes.

Mr Reagan defended his action on grounds that European steelmakers were violating a 1982 agreement by flooding the US markets with three times the volume of exports negotiated by the two governments.

European products, largely from Italy, France and Greece, which were en route to US markets when the November 29 ban was imposed were impounded and are still sitting in American warehouses.

Woolworth stake for Bradman

By Alison Eadie

Rosehaugh, the property company run by Mr Geoffrey Bradman, had exercised its option to buy £2.36 million 11 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1989 in Woolworth Holdings.

The option was acquired for a nominal sum in September 1982 in the institutional buy-out of Woolworth, which Mr Bradman helped to engineer.

The stock is convertible into Woolworth shares between July 1985 and 1989 on the basis of one share for 150p of stock. Full conversion would give Rosehaugh 1.57 million shares, or 1.95 per cent of Woolworth's equity, worth £9.1 million. Woolworth shares close 2p higher at 578p. When the option was granted the shares stood at 150p.

Rosehaugh said the decision to exercise its option was purely an investment decision.

Rosehaugh still holds a further option, not yet exercisable, to subscribe for 1.08 million shares at 150p between 1985 and 1987. At a cost of £1.6 million Rosehaugh could acquire a holding with a market value of £6.2 million.

This second option was also picked up for a nominal sum. If it too were exercised Rosehaugh could end up owning 3.3 per cent of Woolworth.

Government sell-offs top £2bn target

By Jonathan Davis Business Correspondent

With three months of this financial year still to go, the Government has already reached its target of raising £2,000 million from privatization and other asset sales. The Treasury said last night that the first tranche of proceeds from the British Telecom share issue, coupled with the latest auction of North Sea oil licences, has now brought its asset sale total to £2,030 million.

The total, the largest of any year since Mrs Thatcher was elected, in fact understates the extent of the Government's privatization effort, since it does not include three sales - Jaguar, Sealink and Wych Farm - where the proceeds went to their former state industry owners.

The fact that the Treasury has now reached its £2,000 million target is one reason why the

Policy group to study exchange rates

The Public Policy Centre, a research body headed by the former MP Mr Dick Tavner QC, was launched yesterday. Writes Our Economic Correspondent, its first contribution to the economic debate will be the report of a committee set up to examine exchange rate policy.

This committee, chaired by Lord Croham, former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and head of the Civil Service, will examine critically the Government's "hands-off" policy for the exchange rate.

Its members include Professor Marcus Miller, Professor John Williamson, Professor Michael Artis, Mr Christopher Dow and Mr John Quinton. The committee, which is expected to recommend full British membership of the European Monetary System, will argue that setting an exchange rate target is not inconsistent with managing the money supply.

The Wellcome Foundation Limited

Extracts from the review by the Chairman, Mr A. J. Shepperd, for the year ended 25th August 1984.

Group results - Group turnover increased by 20% to £806m, compared with £674m for the previous year. Nearly 90% of the turnover was outside the UK. Group profit before taxation on a historic cost basis was £89.5m compared with £61.2m, an advance of 46%. The main improvement in the group's overall profit arose from a substantial increase in the results of our subsidiary in the USA where the introduction of new products contributed significantly.

Finance - The group's finances continue in a strong position. At the year end, net borrowings amounted to 22% of shareholders' funds, which is unchanged from last year.

Capital expenditure - During the year our capital expenditure programme totalled £58m. Expenditure in the USA amounted to £28m, of which £10m was for buildings which have been acquired near our existing office and research facilities at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Capital expenditure in the UK amounted to £21m. A notable part of this was for the new pharmaceutical development laboratory at Dartford, now nearing completion.

Animal health - We reached agreement during the year with ICI PLC to merge our respective worldwide animal health operations. The new business, which came into being in October 1984 and is known as Coopers Animal Health, will constitute a major force and a strongly competitive element in the world animal health market.

Operations - The launching of "Zovirax" has continued in world markets during the year, thus continuing the recognition of this product as a major contribution to the treatment of herpes infections. The first launch of our new muscle relaxant "Tracrium" was made in December 1982 in the UK and was followed this year by its launch in the USA. Its reception by anaesthesiologists has been most encouraging and it has quickly become a market leader. The other major new product introduced this year in the USA was "Wellcovorin" tablets, the first oral form calcium leuconer antidote to the toxic effects of certain cancer therapies.

Summary of the financial statements 1984 1983

Note: The results shown above are an abridged version of the audited financial statements which contain an unqualified audit report. They have not yet been delivered to the registrar of companies.

Research and development - Our total expenditure on research and development amounted to £97m representing 12% of group turnover for the year.

The Wellcome Foundation Limited is an international group of pharmaceutical and chemical companies with headquarters in the United Kingdom. Under the will of Sir Henry Wellcome, all distributions received by the Wellcome Trust, which is the sole shareholder, are applied to the support of medical and veterinary research in universities and hospitals throughout the world.



The Wellcome Building, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP. Tel: 01-387 4477

Ramada to take over new hotel

By Judith Huntley Commercial Property Correspondent

Ramada, the world's third largest hotel chain, looks set to replace Sheraton, another US chain, as the operator in Speyhawk Land & Estates' £25 million hotel and office development in Brighton.

It appears that Sheraton was willing to operate the hotel but not to put any money into the venture despite a £300,000 grant from the English Tourist Board. In the event, Sheraton decided not to go ahead in developing a five-star hotel and Ramada is due to step in this week.

At the time of the announcement that Sheraton was to be the hotel operator, Postel Investment Management, the Post Office pension fund, said it was willing to fund most of the £16 million hotel development. Details of the new agreement with Ramada may become clearer once the deal is signed on Thursday. The Brighton hotel will be the first five-star hotel to be built in an English coastal resort.

Turriff in £625,000 deal

Turriff Corporation, in a further diversification move away from construction, is buying 49 per cent of the engineering services company Engineering Support Services. It is paying £625,000 cash and has an option to purchase

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES, GOLD. Includes FT 100, Dow Jones, Nikkei Dow, Hang Seng, etc.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES. Includes Noble & Lund, Arrow Chemicals, etc.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares surge to record high as interest rate worries ease

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Interest rate worries were shrugged aside yesterday as shares surged impressively to yet another new peak. The stock market look heart from the weekend indication that the cost of borrowing will not be increased sharply to defend sterling and equities pushed ahead over a wide front.

With miners continuing to drift back to work, more signs of American investment interest and another intensive bout of takeover speculation, the FT 30 share index jumped 14.7 points to 957.7 points. Its previous record was achieved on New Year's Eve.

But the more broadly based FT-SE share index was not quite so buoyant. It finished with a 14.4 point gain at 1,329.0 points, just 3.2 points from its record high.

Government stocks once again missed the party. Concern about today's money supply figures and another dismal performance by sterling on the foreign exchange market left them nursing losses of approaching 1%.

British Telecom led the FT 30 index, continuing, plusing 2 1/2p to 108 1/2p. A new high Imperial Chemical Industries, Hanson Trust and Wickers (where jobbers were particularly short of stock) were among others to advance.

Distillers Co., the spirits group, was another to fall to join the upsurge. Its shares edged ahead just 1p to 291p although the company's top men lunched at Grenfell and Colegrave, the stockbroker.

European Ferries, which on Friday announced the acquisition of the P and O cross channel ferries business for £12.5 million, advanced 3p to 132p as a time of seven million shares went through the market at about 131p each.

Imperial Group, the brewing to tobacco group, surged 11p to 260p.

Mr Colin Mitchell, drinks analyst with Buckmaster and Moore, the stockbroker, is a director of a Business Expansion scheme company, associated Inkeepers. Buckmaster is offering for sale 61,560 shares at £5 each. The company has three brewery-owned pubs and is negotiating for another seven. Mr Malcolm Wallace, formerly with Grand Metropolitan's Phoenix Brewery, is chairman. It is at present loss making but a profit of £25,000 is forecast for the year ending March 1986.

Mr Geoffrey Kent, Imps chairman, is due to announce full year figures next month and the market guess is that the group will achieve about £215 million against £188.8 million last time. A sharp dividend increase is also envisaged.

The was some evidence of American interest but much of the share strength appeared to stem from the interest of a single buyer. The buying was accompanied by renewed takeover speculation with the American Philip Morris group once again emerging as the market favourite.

Geest, Keen & Nettelfold did its bit for the 30 share index, rising 9p to 204p as investors got excited about prospects for the group's tank, the MCV-80 made by GKN-Sankey.

reconned to be in a strong position to win these orders.

GKN is not revealing any figures on the value of such contracts, but the MCV-80 is undoubtedly good news for the engineering group. Apart from sales in this country, the tank is thought to have good sales potential in Europe and elsewhere.

For that reason, various American defence contractors are said to be looking enviously, if not greedily, at GKN. Early morning buying in the shares

came from the US, dealers reported.

General investment interest in GKN is strong in the US, but British speculators are also thinking that might turn into takeover interest, and such whispers helped the share price later in the day.

Beer shares remained strong with J. A. Devanah, the West Country group, rising a further 30p to 525p. The price has been strong on the back of an extensive reorganization of the group and a favourable circular from Sheppards and Chase, the stockbroker. But Matthew Brown, firm recently on takeover speculation, lost ground.

Trusthouse Forte, ahead of year's figures next week, jumped another 5p to 153p and Ladbroke Group, in the process of absorbing Comfort Hotels International, gained 3p to 260p. Phillips and Drew, the stockbroker, remains keen on the shares.

Courtaulds responded to takeover talk, advancing 7p to 132p and Midland Bank surged 15p to 252p on suggestions that its Crocker International debacle has left the group exposed to a takeover bid.

Suggested bidder was BAT Industries, currently buying Hambro Life Assurance for some £660 million. But a Midland spokesman commented: There is no evidence of an approach our way".

BAT held to its policy of not commenting on market rumours.

However, Mr Patrick Sheehy said at the time of the HLA bid, that the takeover completed his group's main move into the financial sector in Britain for the time being.

He said that the HLA deal would take some time to digest and that he expected the group's next major acquisition to be overseas.

Recently rumours swirled around that British Petroleum contemplated a bid for Midland.

Later BP disclosed that it had set up its own in-house bank.

Other banking shares moved forward more sedately. Insurance was mixed.

Oil, as the crude price wrangle continues, were in much better shape. BP, Britoil, Enterprise, Lasso and Shell were all firm.

Among contractors and builders William Leech shares were suspended at 138p, at the request of the company, pending an announcement. Market men confidently expected to hear of a renewal of the bid from C H Beazer, but this time with the agreement of the Leech board.

Beazer offered 145p a share

Arrow Chemicals flew 11p higher to 73p yesterday as market speculation kept jobbers busy. Buyers of the shares expect a bid for the specialty chemicals outfit soon, with ICI a favourite to make an offer. ICI has long been picking up small specialist companies and this one would not cost much at the present price. Arrow is capitalized at just under £5.5 million.

for Leech last summer, but lost out narrowly when it gained control and acceptances for a total of just 46.4 per cent of Leech, a house builder based in the North-east.

While Beazer would normally have to wait until the end of July to renew its attack - under Takeover Panel rules - the aggressively acquisitive group and its return to the fray if Leech agree, or if a rival bid were in the offing.

Shares in Tootal eased 4p to 59p on the news that Australian textile group Entrud had sold a further 350,000 shares

Carclo lifts dividend after 27% profit rise

By Alison Eadie

Carclo Engineering increased pretax profits in the six months to September 30, 1984 by 27.7 per cent to £1.4 million on turnover 13.3 per cent higher at £17.6 million.

The interim dividend was increased by 24.6 per cent to 3.5p, but a similar increase is not expected at the final stage.

The company said a final dividend of not less than 6p would be recommended, implying a total increase of 10.5 per cent.

Carclo reported that its order book remained at a high level and that most of its customers continued to enjoy good trading conditions.

Profits declined again in India, where the textile industry has been hit by the high price of cotton. Political unrest has also been bad for business, but the company is encouraged by the landslide victory of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, which it sees as being good for business.

Profits rose in both Britain and Europe with the increase evenly spread between wire products, the largest part of the engineering division, and card clothing.

The shares rose 2p to 172p, a record for the last year. Carclo is still looking for acquisitions, but has nothing in its sights at the moment.

BP wants more drilling in China

By John Lawless

British Petroleum has told China that it is interested in bidding for more offshore oil and gas licences, in spite of its failure to find commercially exploitable reserves in its 14-month exploration programme in the South China Sea.

The Chinese Government appears to have revived interest among international oil companies by splitting the second round of bidding, shortly to take place, into two parts.

The first area to be offered will be in the Yinghai Bay basin, where Atlantic Richfield made a gas discovery in 1983, which is to become China's first offshore development.

Mr Basil Butler, managing director of BP Exploration, said yesterday: "The Chinese have invited companies to express an interest and a fair number have responded, including ourselves."

He said that he understood that the Chinese had made their own explorations in the area and would shortly be publishing the seismic data, when formally inviting bids.

The rest of the second-round areas have yet to be announced by the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), but is likely to cover 100,000 sq Km, larger than the first round, in the Pearl River Basin in the South China Sea and the southern and northern parts of the Yellow Sea.

BP has drilled seven times in the South China Sea and once in the latter area. Mr Butler said, The fact that they have, like those sunk by all other companies, proved to be commercially "dry" has created widespread gloom about the prospects - after the euphoria that the China offshore reserves would produce the most significant discoveries in years.

BP remains "optimistic" that offshore Chinese fields will produce exploitable finds. Mr Butler said that although his company has two rigs operating there at the moment and the programme is taking 5 per cent of BP's exploratory budget, "it is like prodding a huge football field with a pin". The North Sea, a much smaller area, had required 44 drillers before

yielded commercial holes, he said.

"Everybody expects things to be easy" he said. "We still remain confident. We have expressed an interest in bidding in the second round."

For all companies, much will hang on the way in which CNOOC relaxes the terms under which they are obliged to bid - especially in relation to the so-called "X" factor, the amount of net post-tax oil production which can be retained as profits.

BP has had talks with the Chinese about their plans to open up onshore oil areas to foreign companies, where significant reserves have been found. But significant progress is unlikely during this year or until the areas for exploration are designated.

CARCLO INTERIM RESULTS. Turnover £'000: 17,658 (1984), 15,578 (1983), 14,314 (1982). Profit before tax £'000: 1,398 (1984), 1,083 (1983), 893 (1982). Earnings per ordinary share of 25p: 14.5p (1984), 10.8p (1983), 8.1p (1982). Dividend per ordinary share of 25p: 3.5p (1984), 2.8p (1983), 2.6p (1982). Dividend cover (times): 4.1 (1984), 4.2 (1983), 3.6 (1982). Shareholders funds per ordinary share of 25p: 184p (1984), 152p (1983), 168p (1982).

ASSOCIATED FURNITURE HOLDINGS PLC. OFFER FOR SALE by HARVARD SECURITIES LIMITED. 3,480,000 Ordinary Shares of 1p each at 23p per share payable in full on application. The Application Lists for the Ordinary Shares now offered for sale will open at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 8th January, 1985 and will close at 3 p.m. on Friday, 15th January, 1985.

THE WELLCOME FOUNDATION. £5,520,000 6 1/2% BONDS 1987. The annual report and accounts of the Wellcome Foundation Limited for the financial year ended 25th August 1984 will be available for inspection at the offices of Messrs. Slaughter and May, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3DF, during the usual business hours on any weekday (Saturday excepted) until 8th February 1985.

Base Lending Rates. ABN Bank 9 1/2%, Adam & Company 9 1/2%, Barclays 9 1/2%, BCCI 9 1/2%, Citibank Savings 10 1/2%, Consolidated Crds 9 1/2%, Continental Trust 9 1/2%, C. Hoare & Co 9 1/2%, Lloyds Bank 9 1/2%, Midland Bank 9 1/2%, Nat Westminster 9 1/2%, TSB 9 1/2%, Williams & Glyn's 9 1/2%, Citibank NA 9 1/2%.

Harvard Securities Limited. Harvard House, 42-44 Dolben Street, London SE1 0UG. 01-928 2661.

TEMPUS Growth pays at Ellis & Everard. Ellis & Everard, the chemical distributor, capitalized at £30 million, is doing everything that a large group ought to, backed presumably by ICI, with its 28 per cent stake. The group has pushed into the US, via two large acquisitions, American Industrial Chemicals and Prillaman, costing \$7 million. It had raised \$4 million of fresh equity capital. The interim results justify the group's ambitious approach, and the shares rose 12p to 232p, completing a substantial market outperformance over the past year. Sales have risen by 41 per cent to £38.2 million, and pretax profits are up by 61 per cent to £1.9 million. The earnings gain is rather less impressive, sporting a growth rate of just 23 per cent, after adjusting for the January 1984 rights issue.

Free life cover for complete peace of mind. An advertisement for a life insurance policy featuring a photograph of a family and the text 'Free life cover for complete peace of mind'.

Cut your regular repayments down to size with a single simple loan. Many of our customers have found that paying a number of separate monthly repayments costs them dearly because some items carry higher interest charges than others and some have repayment periods too short for comfort. CHARTERLOAN REPAYMENTS Before tax relief. Charterloan Application Form. Chartered Trust plc. A member of Standard Chartered Bank Group.

Draft VAT law is too hard on honest traders

By Ernest Hoskin

Taxpayers' rights will be eroded if new proposals are enacted

The proposals of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise for implementing the VAT recommendations of the Keith Committee, and the draft clauses intended for inclusion in this year's Finance Bill were published in mid-November. Comment was called for by early this month, an unseemly haste in view of their severity and impact on honest taxpayers.

The draft legislation extends to about 31 pages and 22 clauses and two schedules. Surprisingly though, few taxpayers are aware of the harshness of the enforcement provisions. One magazine dealing with taxation matters has called them a "national disgrace".

The proposals, bearing the

Chancellor's endorsement, have an intention to impose default interest, penalties and surcharges, on taxpayers who do not satisfy the commissioners' regulations. The incidence of the impositions rests almost entirely within Customs and Excise discretion.

There is no power, in respect of the offence of "serious misdeclaration", for a VAT tribunal to exercise any jurisdiction relating to mitigation of penalty. Otherwise adjudication will be determined on the burden of proof applicable to civil proceedings - the balance of probabilities - unlike criminal proceedings where dishonesty must be proved beyond reasonable doubt.

There can be no sympathy for fraudulent operators. But the great majority of VAT traders are not dishonest and many will find that they, too, will be clobbered if the proposals are enacted. Serious objection must be taken to the exercise of such

unilateral power by Customs and Excise.

The proposals erode the right of appeal against a penalty by the commissioners on a taxpayer who has acted in good faith but erroneously, who has been inadvertently misled, or who has found the complex nature of VAT too difficult to comprehend. He cannot plead mitigation to a VAT tribunal; the commissioners' discretion is absolute.

As the draft law stands, independent VAT tribunals will have no jurisdiction to reduce or discharge any penalty imposed by the commissioners for serious misdeclaration.

The fabric of tribunal law, in the United Kingdom, was fashioned in the Report of the Committee on Administrative Tribunals and Enquiries (the Franks Report). The committee's terms of reference involved the consideration of the relationship between the individual and authority.

At different times, it has been necessary to adjust the relationship and to seek a new balance

between private right and public advantage, between fair play for the individual and the efficiency of administration.

At no time has it been more important than now to provide the right for the individual to contest the decisions of the establishment. It is inherent in the laws of the European Economic Community.

It can be no coincidence that the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, appears to be extending his surveillance and authority more closely over tribunals. He clearly recognizes the importance of strengthening this wider branch of appeal against decisions of those responsible for the imposition of administrative law and the importance of the canons of openness and impartiality.

The growth in the use of VAT tribunals reflects their value to the taxpayer. They protect the rights of the citizen; among them, the right not to be the victim of arbitrary conduct by those with whom one deals, whether fellow citizens or public authorities.

A system founded on these principles requires that those who administer the law should have their limitations imposed by law; those who are administered have rights in law which must be protected.

The draft clauses should be judged in the light of these observations. In no way do they even remotely stand examination. They are arbitrary, disciplinary and coercive; they leave no latitude to the honest but confused taxpayer.

A VAT tribunal has no power to release him from the arbitrary imposition of default interest and penalties fixed by the commissioners. Only if his entire appeal succeeds will the taxpayer be relieved of the added burden.

Most taxpayers are intrinsically honest. Unfortunately many have no clear understanding of the complexities of VAT. Many people have been encouraged by the Prime Minister to set up in business. They try to cope but where can they find time to study VAT law and the

administrative regulations issued by Customs and Excise? They have no funds to spare for accountants.

It is the small trader who is most often assessed for some dereliction of his VAT commitment; it is he who, under the Finance Bill clauses, will also be saddled with penalties and interest charges.

Criticism must be directed against the excessive powers which the commissioners are intending to assume and against which there is no appeal. It is neither right nor proper for a great department of state to be both prosecutor and judge.

In the service of justice the use of the commissioners' discretion to impose penalties should be subject to examination by the independent VAT tribunal whose jurisdiction should be extended.

The author, who helped to construct the value-added tax system, was Registrar, VAT Tribunals for the United Kingdom until 1983. He now writes regularly on the subject of VAT.

COMMODITY MARKETS

London must fight to maintain its status

I wonder what new year's resolutions the London commodity markets have made. To pester the Government for tax changes? To support until death may part them the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers? To promote London as a commodity trading centre? Or even to try harder?

Any one of these would be commendable. All are necessary. For this promises to be an important year for London as a commodity centre. Bear markets, tough overseas competition, and sharply lower profitability have forced many brokers and traders to look long and hard at their business. And the emergent collective feeling is that London is faced with a hard fight to maintain its status in the commodity world.

A propaganda paper from the British Federation of Commodity Associations makes the point succinctly. Over the last five years volume on the London Metal Exchange has grown by an average of 15.1 per cent a year, while on Comex in New York it has advanced by almost 49 per cent annually.

Over the same period grains on the Chicago Board of Trade advanced by 16.5 per cent annually, but only the London Commodity Exchange could manage only 12.2 per cent. Significantly - not least because of the much vaunted advantage to London of being in the "middle" of time zones - the Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur markets together showed an extraordinary 243 per cent average yearly rise.

The message is clear. However important London may be absolutely, it is losing ground to the competition relatively. There are, of course, variations between individual commodity markets and London may retain a comparative advantage, for example in aluminium. But the trend cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely.

This much has become increasingly evident to London's commodity community over the past two years or so. So far, however, efforts to stem the tide have been piecemeal and have sometimes owed much to rank outsiders such as Her Majesty's Government.

To be fair, London's markets have taken the initiative in seeking tax changes. Their argument has been that prima

facie it is unreasonable for gains on commodity futures and options transactions to be treated as income when the equivalent equity transaction is regarded for tax purposes as capital and is accordingly liable to tax at a lower rate. Commodity investors suffer from the added disadvantage that losses on futures deals cannot automatically be offset against gains.

This point has been pressed strongly in recent months, and tax changes are an unspoken quid pro quo for the industry forming itself into a self-regulating agency in the guise of the AFBD. But I fear it contains two issues. Equity is one thing, encouraging extra investment in the markets, and therefore expanding liquidity, is another.

What deters British private investors from using London commodity markets is not tax treatment but the poor reputations of those markets for being a secure investment and the absence of suitable vehicles. To some extent, existing legislation exacerbates the situation by forcing commodity funds offshore.

London certainly does need much more liquidity and it is true that customs is being lost because some overseas markets enjoy greater depth - for example, Chicago as opposed to the London International Financial Futures Exchange. But potential foreign users of London are not primarily subject to British taxes are unlikely to be impressed by fiscal changes here.

The essential ingredient is a regulatory environment which gives direction to the markets and simultaneously imparts confidence to the users. The AFBD should be seen not merely as a tiresome necessity, accepted for fear of something worse like a Securities and Exchange Commission, but as a catalyst for bringing London's disparate and jealous markets together.

London's new year resolution should be to promote unity and to promote itself. The City's historical advantages as a commodity centre are insufficient in themselves. The Government can help to provide the framework; but only the commodity exchanges can provide the voice.

Michael Prest

Pitt's balancing was an act for Lawson to envy

Perhaps we should be celebrating an even greater bicentenary. For 1785 has an arguable claim to have been the year of birth of Britain's industrial revolution. While it was not a year of key scientific invention, it was - more importantly - a critical year for the industrial application of science. In a Nottingham cotton mill in 1785, the first steam engine with rotary motion was installed.

It was steam power, beyond all else, that threw up by the term of late-eighteenth-century scientific activity, that changed the face of Britain. Before this centralizing force, industrial innovation had served to increase the output of workers in their own homes, villages and towns; it was the application of steam power that drew them into factories and created the new cities of the Midlands and North. In the words of the Oxford history of the time, it was steam power that expanded industry so as "to produce a new class of self-confident industrial masters, and so to disturb the tranquility of men's ideas".

The change was not, of course, instantaneous. Even in the cotton industry, handloom weavers outnumbered factory workers as late as 1830. It took war with Napoleon to jerk the industrial revolution into full production and stimulate the

infant iron and steel industries.

In 1785 English society (all eight million members of it, including the Welsh) was still predominantly rural, with wealth rooted in land. The "merchants and bankers of the City of London", the group label under which their elite still foregather once a year, was already established on the back of Britain's trading power. But with notable exceptions (such as Sir Richard Arkwright, the cotton innovator who died a half-millionaire in 1792), Britain's affluent industrial middle class was a thing of the future.

Yet most of the seeds of change were already germinating in 1785. The spinning jenny was 20 years old. The canal system was widening domestic markets, capital was plentiful. Perhaps the most significant signpost was the shortage of labour and rising wage costs in the North of England, stimulating innovation. Patents were being taken out at an ever increasing rate.

Agriculture, too, was developing - small farms were disappearing, large ones expanding, despite a pause in the rate of enclosure; the threshing machine was introduced in the 1790s. Almost every economic indicator was pointing up in the late 1780s, and social indicators too; by the end of the decade the death rate was dropping, and

THE TIMES 1785-1985

Britain's population grew by more than a million in each of the next two decades.

Philosophically, the ground was well prepared. Jeremy Bentham set the logical framework of utilitarianism in 1780. Four years earlier, Adam Smith had dug the grave of mercantilism in *The Wealth of Nations*.

Though he had greatest influence on the succeeding generation, Adam Smith's advocacy of freer trade found its practical expression in many of Pitt's reforms. In 1784 the tea duty was quartered, from 112 per cent to 25 per cent, dealing a heavy blow to the smuggling trade.

More significant, perhaps, was Pitt's commercial treaty with France: Adam Smith, descending from theory, had argued practically that France would prove a better market than the last Americas if duties could be mutually lowered. It did, after all, contain eight times as many people as the newly-independent United States.

Even before the treaty took effect, Britain's trade was expanding fast. Cotton exports,

worth only about £300,000 in 1780, topped £800,000 in our year of 1785 - and passed the million pound mark two years later. Exports of coal, iron and steel and metal manufacturers all rose in the late 1780s.

At home, Pitt was caught between two of Adam Smith's dictums. The founder of political economy acknowledged defence to be more important than opulence, and defence costs periodically ruined Pitt's attempts to run a Budget surplus of at least one million pounds a year. Thus Adam Smith's famous plea against state intervention, that "it is the highest impertinence to pretend to watch over the economy of private persons," could not compete with the need for revenue. Like Mrs Thatcher two centuries later, Pitt cut his borrowing requirement largely by raising tax.

Like the present Government, Pitt found the control of expenditure slow going. Redundancies cost money, then as now: in 1785 Pitt disposed of those gentlemen enjoying the

secure positions of "auditors of the impost," but had to pay them £7,000 a year each for life in compensation. Yet he struggled on with civil service reform: 1785 also saw the reorganization of tax collection. The year before, the civil list had been put on a more businesslike basis; two years after, customs duties were brought together into our old friend, the consolidated fund.

Unlike today's Chancellor, Pitt was busily engaged in raising direct taxes while cutting duties on expenditure. In 1785 the introduction of a forerunner of the selective employment tax was introduced: levied on the employment of personal servants, and at a higher rate for bachelors than for married couples.

Other fancy taxes, usually levied directly from individuals, covered horses used for carriage work, pensions, pedlars and mairservants - besides, of course, the famous increases in window tax. Many of them proved inefficient - expensive to administer and easy to evade. But in 1784 Pitt tapped the national passion for gambling by introducing a national lottery, which provided him with costless liquidity before the prizes had to be paid out.

Even so, in 1785 Pitt failed to balance his books, running a deficit of about £24 million.

The first detailed statistics of national income are no earlier than 1801, when it amounted to £232 million; in 1785, Pitt's borrowing requirement perhaps equalled 2 per cent of GNP. But his total income was only £15½ million, of which debt charges gobbled up over £9 million; struggling back to surplus by 1786 was an achievement Mr Nigel Lawson may well envy.

How do these figures compare with today's? The Napoleonic war brought inflation (as well as a hole in the public finances and income tax); but looking across long sweep of history, it seems that prices were actually slightly lower on the eve of the First World War than they were in 1785. Long-run inflation measures are, of course, highly questionable; the goods bought in 1913 differed radically from those bought and sold in 1785.

Nor does this long-term equivalence translate into stability from year to year: the price of wheat, measured in imperial quarters, dropped from 54s 3d in 1783 to 43s 1d in 1785; bobbing up again in the late 1780s. In 1913 it was 31s 8d. Not until after the First World War did the price collapse (to 9s 10d by 1923); but by then, of course, we were into a very different economic era.

Sarah Hogg



MEMORY

Since the first electronic brain began "thinking" almost four decades ago, Hitachi has been steadily advancing the art of machine memories. From paper tape and punch cards to magnetic tape and memory drums. To semiconductors and the very latest optical technologies for high-density information storage.

Technology that never forgets

Today, the results of Hitachi research are in use all around you. Floppy disks that can hold hundreds of pages' worth of text for ready reference via business or personal computers. Magnetic "bubble memories" which allow industrial robots to memorize dozens of job routines. Semiconductor memory devices for data processing, satellite communications systems, office automation equipment, and even home audio/video components.

Our engineers are using micro-electronic skills to allow much more information to be packed into smaller and smaller units. They have found ways to etch micron-wide circuits on 1/2 cm² silicon chips to accommodate over one million bits of data. They have refined the magnetic storage properties of Hitachi hard disks to almost flawless levels.

In fact, we are constantly coming up with innovations and new applications. Quite recently: A mirror-like optical disk no

larger than an LP record, which permits laser inscription of pictures and sounds as well as computer-encoded text and numbers for laser scanning of any bit of information in just a quarter of a second.

These examples demonstrate a few of the ways in which Hitachi is improving upon basic technology. Then using it to create practical tools that meet your needs... and those of professionals in banking, education, research, and virtually every other field you can name.

The best of worlds is yet to come

Our vision of the future includes whole libraries of information carried in memory packets even smaller than a standard textbook. Visual memory banks that allow designers to create new works of art from stored images. Automotive microcomputers that recall routes, driving conditions and destination data. And much, much more.

We'd like you to share in the benefits of our scientific research, covering the next generation of microchips, sensors and other electronic devices. For improved business efficiency. For a higher quality of life. Two goals we've pursued for 74 years as part of our commitment to a better world through electronics.

WE BELIEVE MEMORY DEVICES EXPAND THE POTENTIALS OF THE HUMAN MIND



HITACHI

Russian openings for Western technology

Apricot ready to go on sale in Moscow

By Paul Walton

Thanks to pressure by British doves, the Russians should be able to buy microcomputers this year...



Richard Perle drawing a distinction

things which can be bought in Oxford Street, and the kind of things that have a military slant to them.

The changes in CoCom rules should be agreed in three months, and in force within six months...

The BBC microcomputer was also being shown at the Systemtronica show...

An official of the commercial section of the US Embassy in London explained that the Apricot, with a fast 4MHz Intel 8086 processor...

Richard Perle, the Assistant Secretary for Defence and architect of the US embargo, asked about the more liberal deal...

Exxon pulls out of office automation

The decision by Exxon, the largest company in the world, to pull out of the office automation market illustrates the notion that money and resources count for very little in the fast-moving computer technology field.

Exxon, better known as Esso in the UK, has annual sales of almost twice those of IBM.

Last year's attempts to produce a climate for high-technology innovation proved, with few exceptions, to be disastrous.

Sales did not match the ambitious plans and the first reorganisation took place in 1982.

The motorist receives a computerized printout showing the routes in miles and kilometers, including designated highways, route changes and rest areas.

By using the service, a tourist can feed into the computer information about the size of vehicle being driven, the starting location, destination and whether he wants to go by the shortest or the scenic route.

The motorist receives a computerized printout showing the routes in miles and kilometers, including designated highways, route changes and rest areas.

The service can also provide a computerized summary of total distance to be travelled, estimated driving times and approximate petrol costs and include locations of hotels, motels, car rental agencies and service stations.

The program operates on IBM or IBM-compatible personal computers, but can be transferred to a mainframe computer or adapted for other systems.

One man's belief in nuclear disarmament has led him to develop a peace program, based on Christian ethics, for home computer users...

Mr Curry, who has been involved with TTNS since its inception, believes that the system will further the use of computers across the curriculum.

No knowledge of computer programming is not necessary to enter the competition. All you have to do is to design an original and imaginative curriculum-related project to be featured on TTNS later this year.

The completed entry should be sent to: TTNS Competition, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1E 6EZ.

The school will receive one of the new Acorn ABC 110 business computers with 10 Megabyte hard disc, twin 720K disc drives with high resolution colour screen, a selection of software, plus Econet local area networking facilities, and free membership of TTNS for a year.

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COMPUTER HORIZONS

Edited by MATTHEW MAY

Need now for a 'hands off' policy

The telecommunication and computer industries and their progress must again be given prominent place in the minds of industrial policy-makers this year as Britain tries to reverse the flow of high-technology imports.

Despite the years of political rhetoric that predicted the contrary, there is still not enough competition in the British telephone telecommunications sector.

which offers intercontinental communications from spacecraft above the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans to its 100 or so members.

cutting costs of the seven-year programme by two-thirds. A favoured alternative could be a design offered by British, a British company whose design is based on a satellite made by the American group RCA.

THE WEEK

by Bill Johnstone

Technology Correspondent

made little impact on the escalating profits of British Telecom.

This year there will be a ray of hope in the form of the newly created Ofel (Office of Telecommunications).

International satellite carriers will also exert pressure on the reluctant British. President Reagan has agreed in principle to allow privately owned satellite carriers to offer transatlantic telecommunication services.

The international transfer of data, the fundamental platform of computer communications, relies on high-speed telecommunication links.

The pressure is increasing. The partners of the British DBS satellite project - the BBC, the ITV companies and a handful of industrialists in the high-technology sector - must this year make a decision on whether to go ahead with their programme for a spacecraft due to be launched in 1986.

The European case was suspended without a decision being reached. IBM agreed to

change some of its practices in return for the case being suspended. The company maintains that the business practices in the case were perfectly legal.

The new case could be heard before the end of the year. If BMC wins the result will have serious repercussions for IBM.

Several rival PC suppliers, including Apple and Compaq, according to Mr Daniel O'Neill, president of the United States based Technology Analysis group, have complained to the United States Justice Department that IBM is pricing its PC and PCjr models at a loss to buy a market share.

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David Bellamy to judge the schools competition

Christmas over, schoolchildren can try their hand at The Times Network for Schools competition.

Judging will be by a panel of four headed by David Bellamy, the champion of environmentalism, and former lecturer in Botany at Durham University.

Mr Curry, who has been involved with TTNS since its inception, believes that the system will further the use of computers across the curriculum.

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On screen for a better route

IBM faces action over price policy

By Kevan Pearson

This year IBM could face renewed anti-trust pressure over its business practices.

The company already faces one case of alleged anti-competitive practices over the way it distributes software for mainframe computers.

Several rival PC suppliers, including Apple and Compaq, according to Mr Daniel O'Neill, president of the United States based Technology Analysis group, have complained to the United States Justice Department that IBM is pricing its PC and PCjr models at a loss to buy a market share.

The European case was suspended without a decision being reached. IBM agreed to

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Computer Appointments

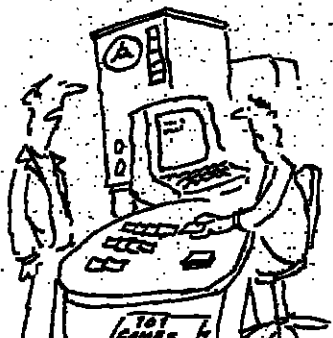
Good typing skills and a logical mind? 6 months & permanent jobs attractive remuneration. SCANSPEED LTD

London School of Economics... SYSTEM ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

POLYTECHNIC OF THE SOUTH BANK... Department of Mathematic Sciences and Computing

COMPUTER BRIEFING

One man's belief in nuclear disarmament has led him to develop a peace program, based on Christian ethics, for home computer users...



How's the response time on this new system?

The program is available from Newcastle-upon-Tyne firm Maginations, Tel: 091 2707362.

Quiet, please

Line noise, leading to corrupted transmission of data by Telecom Gold users can now be overcome by a new piece of software on the originating micro.

Uniform Flap is an error correcting transfer system which enables chunks of text and binary information to be checked and corrected automatically during transmission.

Last of Adam

The decision by Coleco to abandon its Adam home computer adds yet another casualty to a United States marketplace that is both saturated and fiercely competitive.

Coleco says it will now sell its stock of computers, though at a loss, and hopes to return to profitability aided by sales of Cabbage Patch dolls which it also manufactures.

Texas Instruments, Matel and Timex have already withdrawn from the United States home computer market leaving Commodore and Atari as the main contenders.

Atari says last year to ex-Commodore chief Jack Trammell by a disappointed Warner Communications.

David Bellamy to judge the schools competition. THE TIMES NETWORK SCHOOLS. David Bellamy heads the judging panel.

With so much choice you've only one option. The Which Computer Show. National Exhibition Centre Birmingham 15-18 January 1985.

SO WHAT'S NEW IN THE COMPUTER WORLD THIS MORNING? ABS COMPUTERS. North Street, Portslade, Brighton, East Sussex BN4 1ER.

RUGBY UNION

Big Cornishman is the new bulwark for England

By David Hinds, Rugby Correspondent

Christopher Martin will become England's eleventh new cap this season when he plays full back against Ireland...

Martin, aged 23, and the ninth Bath player to win a cap over the last year, wins selection ahead of Barnes...

The choice of the three-quarter replacement has been deferred to ensure the fitness of Simons...

The selectors' decision means there is no place for Rees, the Nottingham flanker who withdrew from the Romanian match...



Martin: lucky to have won his place

match, pleased though they would have been to do so, but to show that we can take part on equal terms with all the home countries...

All-Ireland league given green light

By George Ace

The Games Development Committee of the Irish Rugby Football Union has the unanimous support of the Union to launch an all-Ireland League...

The aims are to offer better regular competition for the best players, to increase interest in rugby and to keep Ireland among the leading rugby playing nations...

Bell, touring the provinces explaining the plan to member clubs, wants a response by March...

Clubs realize that if the national league does not materialize then increasingly they will lose their players to the representative provincial teams...

Kierman prompted change

Some inter-club friendlies and a truly national competition will replace them...

TENNIS

McEnroe's crown is threatened by Swedes

New York (AFP) - For the second time in a month, a group of talented young Swedish players snatched John McEnroe and an important honour...

McEnroe, the world No. 1 and a member of the United States side beaten in the Davis Cup final by Sweden in Göteborg last month...

However, a number of Swedish stars lie in wait for him in the draw. Mats Wilander, Henrik Sundstrom, Anders Jarryd and Joakim Nystrom...

The four-man Swedish contingent is the largest that any country, apart from the United States and Australia, has ever been able to boast in the tournament's 15-year history...

There are six Americans in the field. As well as McEnroe and Connors, Eliot Telleser, Johan Krieger, Vitas Gerulaitis and Aaron Krickstein are also taking part...

As top seed, he was given a bye in the first round and will open his campaign on Thursday against the winner of the opening tie between Jarryd and Sundstrom...

McEnroe starts as No 1 seed by finishing top of the grand prix table with a record 3,393 points...

Connors, the 1978 champion, is seeded No 2, with 2,903 points; Connors \$400,000, Lendl \$300,000 and Wilander \$200,000.

For finishing on top of the points list, McEnroe collected \$600,000, Connors \$400,000, Lendl \$300,000 and Wilander \$200,000.

MATTHEWS FIELD, J. McInnes, J. Conroy, R. T. Fisher, V. Gerulaitis, J. Krieger and A. Krickstein (US); M. Wilander, H. Sundstrom, A. Jarryd and J. Nystrom (Sweden); L. Lendl and J. Connors (USA).

CRICKET

Lively entertainment and Agnew gets his reward

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Secunderabad

In gorgeous weather and before a good, boisterous crowd, England and South Zone shared in a day's cricket which contained as much entertainment as the whole of last week's Test match...

Only twice before in India has one seen a pitch with as much bounce in it. There was one for the Test match in Madras in 1976-77 and another for the Jubilee Test in Bombay in 1980...

Yesterday England's faster bowlers were seldom without three slips, and when the ball went there it travelled fast enough for three, perhaps four, chances to go down. Agnew is a lucky young man to have found such conditions in which to justify his recent summons from England...

For Foster, French and Moxon the match provides them, quite possibly, with their last cricket of the tour and Agnew with his only cricket. From now on, only Test matches and one-day internationals are left in India...

Agnew took four wickets

Agnew, who has taken 11 wickets in 10 one-day matches, has not given hope of playing against Sri Lanka in the first day-night match of the World Series Cricket Cup here today...

Lawson, who twisted his back and aggravated an old injury during the defeat by West Indies in Sunday, has been receiving physiotherapy treatment. He plans a strenuous morning in the net to prove his fitness to the Australian selectors...

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Clough: second only to Paisley in making success out of management

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In his first full season, 1975-76, some progress was made (the team finished eighth), but although McGovern, Robertson, O'Neill, Bowyer and Anderson, the nucleus of the League Championship, League Cup, and European Cup winning teams, were playing with Woodcock, and unconquered reserves, there was no indication of the glories to come...

This summer, however, Peter Taylor left Brighton and Hove Albion and the pair quickly renewed their partnership. The chemistry worked once again, although it was not instantaneous, the club creeping into the third promotion position only because Bolton Wanderers fell away during the run-in. The strong spine down the centre, a permanent feature of Clough and Taylor teams, had been aided with the purchase of Lloyd and Withe, and Woodcock had established himself as Withe's attacking partner with considerable effect...

Even so there was little to prepare the public for the impact they were to make on the first division. But Burns, Shilton and Gemmill were quickly added and in October they went to the top of the division. There they stayed but before taking the championship they won the League Cup in March, beginning what was to become a period of hoodlumism for Liverpool. Forest survived a 120-minute battering at Wembley to win the replay at Old Trafford with the help of Francis, Brian's first £1m player, the European Cup and another League Cup final victory followed a year later, and although the sequence of three League Cup Final appearances ended in defeat by Wolverhampton Wanderers the European Cup was retained with a dour, defensive win over Hamburg...

By then most people were forced to admit Clough's extraordinary gifts. Forest supporters were heard to chant regularly "Brian Clough walks on water", and there were many prepared to believe them.

Clough's success in January, 1975 they would have laughed out of court. The Times commented, somewhat sulkily on the announcement of his appointment to succeed Allan Brown: "If Mr Clough is taking a gamble with a team with no immediate hope of success, Forest are also taking a gamble with him. In 15 months he has been with four clubs."

Clough's friends also recognize that Clough could not afford another wrong move, a point admitted in typical mocking fashion by Clough himself when he said: "I hope to stay longer than the 44 days at Leeds."

With his bounding faith in his own ability he may have foreseen the glories and the longevity ahead.

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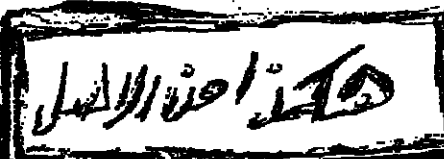
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We now need an energetic, self-motivated Solicitor to become a key member of this small team. You will be involved in an extensive range of legal matters relating to the operation of British Airports, principally covering commercial and employment law, litigation,

and competition law. You will therefore need to be intelligent, resourceful and flexible - qualities we expect to find in someone with about 2-3 years' post-qualification experience and the ambition to further develop your career and your experience as part of a busy team.

In return you will be rewarded with good salary and conditions. In the first instance, please write with CV to Austen Cooper, Personnel, Head Office, British Airports Authority, Gatwick Airport, Gatwick, West Sussex RH6 0HZ.

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LEGAL OPPORTUNITIES (2 Posts)

KIRIBATI CHIEF JUSTICE

Duties: To hear civil and criminal cases, civil and criminal appeals from the Magistrates' Courts and land appeals. Responsible for the training of Court Clerks.

The successful candidate will be an ex-officio of the Court of Appeal and will be required to arrange attendance at and hearings of appeals to that Court and will also be a member of the Council of State and have other Constitutional duties.

Appointment: On Contract to the Government of Kiribati for a period of 2 1/2 years. Local salary currently 7999 Australian dollars, subject to local income tax plus a free supplement of £15,196 for single officers and £17,668 for married officers.

Qualifications: Applicants aged 40 should have been a Barrister or Solicitor for at least 10 years and have substantial relevant experience as a Magistrate or preferably in a higher judicial office.

Please quote reference AN122.146627.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

CHAIRMAN OF TRADE DISPUTE PANEL AND DIRECTOR OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Duties: (A) Working with lay members (as in England) to hear: (i) Recognition, etc. disputes under the Trade Disputes Act 1981. (ii) Unfair dismissal claims under the Unfair Dismissal Act 1982. (B) As part-time Director of Legal Education (i) arranging and giving lectures for candidates in law law examinations leading to qualification as a magistrate. (ii) setting and marking law examinations (iii) co-ordinating all local and overseas legal training.

Appointment: On contract to the Government of the Solomon Islands for a period of 2 years. Local salary is currently in the range of \$1,142, 12,432 Solomon Island Dollars. Plus a tax free supplement of £11,326 for single officers and £13,956 for married officers.

Qualifications: Applicants, aged 30-50, should be a Barrister or Solicitor of at least 3 years standing with general and industrial Tribunal experience. A law degree is desirable but not essential. Please quote reference AN122.146622.

BOTH POSTS: Applicants should be British citizens. Closing date for applications 31st January 1985.

For full details and application forms please apply quoting appropriate reference numbers giving details of age, qualifications and experience to: Appointments Officer, Overseas Development Administration, Room AHD61, Abercrombie House, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA.

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Our Client, a large firm of provincial Solicitors with offices in the Northern Home Counties wishes to appoint a Company Solicitor with a minimum of one to three years' post admission experience to be based in the rapidly expanding business centre of Milton Keynes. The successful candidate will take over all existing commercial files, except property, and will be responsible for the development of a new department catering for existing and new clients.

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We are seeking an additional Solicitor to join our specialist team dealing with problems arising from construction contracts. Experience in handling disputes with a technical content, both in litigation and arbitration, is essential and preference will be given to applicants with a technical background. The work is demanding and complex. Applicants should have a good academic record, a minimum of one year's qualified experience and must be able to work either with a minimum of supervision or as a member of a team.

Applications should be submitted in writing, accompanied by a comprehensive C.V. to: Mr. K. W. Duncan, Stephenson Harwood, Saddler's Hall, Gutter Lane, London EC2V 6BS.

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We are seeking a young solicitor to specialise in construction and engineering litigation and arbitration. It is likely that some foreign travel will be involved. A technical background or interest might be helpful and although previous experience of this kind of work is not essential, it is desirable that applicants should have some practical knowledge and experience of High Court litigation.

Commercial Litigation and Arbitration
A young solicitor is also required for a wide variety of commercial litigation and arbitration. The work is demanding and much of it is international in character. Some practical experience of commercial litigation is important.

Applicants for both positions should have a good academic record and have obtained about two years' post-qualification experience. We shall expect the successful candidate to be able to work either individually with a minimum of supervision or as a member of a team. In the first instance please write, enclosing a comprehensive C.V. to:

Mr. C. L. McConigal, Coward Chance, Roper House, Aldemansbury Square, London EC2V 7LD.

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If you are considering a career move or would simply like to discuss your options, then please contact us by telephoning Laurence Simons or Simon Anderson, both of whom are qualified Lawyers, on 01-405 0442 (or 01-387 4752 evenings and weekends) or write to The Legal Division, Michael Page Partnership, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.



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Solicitors

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The successful applicant will join a team of lawyers undertaking commercial and property work both for the NCB and its pensions schemes. The work covers a wide range of commercial law, both domestic and international, including contract and company matters, intellectual property, and taxation. Applicants should have had practical experience in one or more of these fields.

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This position is with a team of lawyers handling a broad range of litigation, including a substantial volume of personal injury, mining and commercial matters.

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An attractive salary will be offered, depending on age and experience, and conditions of service are as expected of a major organisation. Career prospects are excellent.

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HQ Staff Manager (Doncaster), National Coal Board, Coal House, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN1 3HD.
HQ Staff Manager (London Offices), National Coal Board, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7AE.

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- (2) Newly qualified solicitors or legal executives for litigation.
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Your role will be to generate publicity material to support the activities of the organisation. You will be required to establish effective liaison communications, to research and compile mailing lists and to write sharp, informative specialist promotional and advertising copy.

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also on page 24

PERSONAL COLUMNS

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HONG KONG CRIMINAL LAWYERS Hong Kong Solicitors require an Assistant Solicitor, preferably with 2 years experience.

WEST END Solicitors seek Assistant Solicitor with substantial experience in all aspects of property matters.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins.
6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Salina Scott. News from Debbie Rice at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours at 6.59; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; plus advice for the newly redundant; Alan Titchmarsh's 'phone-in gardening hints; and Glynis Christian with a recipe.
9.00 Ceefax. 10.30 Play School, presented by Stuart McGugan at 10.30 Ceefax.
12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Cordavale. The weather prospects come from Ian McGeckil. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One includes 6-ly expert Bill Eylon beginning a series in which he renovates a run-down semi detached house 1.45 Hockey Cokey. A See-Saw programme for the very young, presented by Chris Ashcroft and Don Spavitt (r).
2.00 Can You Avoid Cancer? The first of five programmes with advice on how to reduce the risk of falling to the deadly disease. Introduced by Dr Michael O'Donnell (r). 2.25 Ceefax 3.48 Regional news (not London).
3.50 Play School, presented by Stuart Bradley. 4.10 Dastardly with a fluffy cartoon series (r). 4.20 Jackanory. Freddie Jones reads part two of J. R. R. Tolkien's 'Farmer Giles of Ham'.
4.35 Wildtrack. The first in a new series of the nature magazine programme, introduced by Su Ingle and Michael Jordan. Foxes, birds and a sperm whale are all featured this afternoon. 5.00 John Craven's Newsround. 5.05 The Record Breakers presented by Roy Castle, Fiona Kennedy and Norris McWhirter. The first of a new series.
5.30 Dr Kildare. A repeat of the hit medical drama series starring Richard Chamberlain and Raymond Massey. When a body buried man is admitted to Blair Hospital, Dr Kildare has to swallow his pride and consult with a specialist with whom he at loggerheads. The guest stars this evening are James Mason and Margaret Leighton. 5.58 Weather.
6.00 News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell.
6.30 London Plus.
6.55 Wildlife on One. In the opening programme of a new series David Attenborough discovers electricity-type reptiles on a remote island in the Caribbean (Ceefax).
7.20 Film: The Italian Job (1969) starring Michael Caine and Noel Coward. Comedy thriller about the theft of gold bullion from the chases all over Turin and, later, in the Alps. Suspense. Directed by Peter Collinson.
9.00 News with John Humphrys.
9.25 Play: The Last Evening, by Trevor Baxter. Comedy starring Freddie Jones and Muriel Pavlow, about resistance by two parishioners to their local church being made redundant and converted into trendy residences. Directed by Jon Amiel. (See Choice).
10.35 Loose Ends. A lighthearted quiz, presented by Tim Brooke-Taylor. The contestants are John Junkin, Mariel Webb, Paul Square, Christopher Hughes, Bonnie Langford and Bill Tidy.
1.05 Roger Whittaker in Kenya. A nostalgic tour through the singer's native country (r).
2.00 Weather.

TV-am

- 6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Nick Owen and Jayne Irving. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.39 and 9.37; guest, Jess Conrad, from 8.45; exercise at 8.50 and 9.20; Jet Harris remembers at 7.15; Popeye cartoon at 7.28; pop at 7.54; Cyles Grandfather's postbag at 8.15; cooking hints from Patrick Anthony at 9.05.
9.25 Thames news headlines followed by Sesame Street, 10.25. Gideon. Adventures of a farmyard duck. With the voices of Tim Brooke-Taylor (r), 10.35 Our Backyard, where today Laura plays at shops.
10.50 Passport Treasures. The last in the present series and John M Perry is at Cragside, in Northumberland, which was the home of gunmaker William Armstrong who adapted the house to become the first in the world to be lit by hydro-electric power. 11.10 Make It Fly. Making money from the air. 11.25 Fabulous Funnies. Cartoons. 11.55 Rub a Dub Dub. Animated nursery rhymes.
12.00 Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends. Ringo Starr with another of the Rev Awdry's tales. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets (r). 12.30 The Sullivans.
1.00 News at One. 1.20 Thames news with Richard Houston. 1.30 Jamaica Sound Investigates the Damask Collection. Starring Patricia Hodge and the late Ian Hendry (r).
2.30 Daytime. Khalid Aziz chairs a discussion on a matter of topical importance. 3.00 Vintage Quiz, presented by Fred Denning. The panel consists of Faith Brown, Pete Murray, Chris Kelly, Erlyn Hughes, Angie Bess and Ian Ogilvy.
3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.30 The Young Doctors.
4.00 Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends. A repeat of the hit children's series starring Richard Chamberlain and Raymond Massey. When a body buried man is admitted to Blair Hospital, Dr Kildare has to swallow his pride and consult with a specialist with whom he at loggerheads. The guest stars this evening are James Mason and Margaret Leighton. 5.58 Weather.
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1.05 Roger Whittaker in Kenya. A nostalgic tour through the singer's native country (r).
2.00 Weather.



Dee Hepburn in 'Girl' (Channel 4, 9.00pm)

Some television writers take a lifetime to hit the bullseye. Trevor Baxter has done it at his very first attempt. THE LAST EVENING (BBC1, 9.25pm). I cannot remember when I last saw a new, funny play that is enjoyed so much. What we have here is British eccentricity as cleverly exploited as in any Ealing comedy during the golden years. Prim sposter (church organist) and military widower (vicar's warden) barricade themselves inside a church scheduled for conversion into a studio and weaken a fast, "its no passport pass", grows the brigadier who isn't. And as the banner "Under Worshippers Control" is unfurled on the church tower, the organist calls "Onward Christian Soldiers". We used to convert the heathens: now you're converting churches" - thunders the "brigadier" as he

parleys with the vicar. The numbers are taken down from the hymn board and the days of the occupation are put up in their place. Iron rations in the shape of corned beef as stacked in the vestry. "We should have waited for the harvest festival: we'd have had the prize marmos to live on", says the spinsters, unhelpfully. I must say no more for fear of revealing what happens to Mr Baxter's delightfully bawdy duo, relayed to the perfection by Freddie Jones and Muriel Pavlow.
Astonishingly, considering that it is only four years old and, therefore, claim to be a product of morally liberated cinema, Bill Forsyth's 'GREGORY'S GIRL' (Channel 4, 9.00pm) is a film about

adolescent sexuality that does not make a meal of it. It is, in any case, too busy making us laugh, which it succeeds in doing at regular intervals. You may think, as I did, that there are rather too many cut heads on young shoulders for this charming film to ring completely true.
Stockhausen's Stockhausen live from the Barbican, begins tonight (8.15). MUSIC AND MACHINES is what they are calling it. Untuned ears will wonder where the music begins and the machines end. They have six nights to puzzle it out. There are no easy solutions. You can judge how authentic the season will be: in some concerts, Stockhausen will take part, as well as Stockhausen himself. Peter Davalle

Radio 3
6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert. Szymanowski's Concert Overture in E (Musical, violin). 7.15 The Piano Concerto No 4 (Michelangelo/Philharmonic). 7.30 News. 7.35 Brahms's Hungarian Dance No 1: Boccherini's Cello Concerto in D (Rostropovich/Chamber Orchestra). 7.45 Musician: Bach's (arranged) Bassoon Prelude and Fugue in D. 8.00 News. 8.05 Variations on a theme of Paganini (r). 8.10 News. 8.15 This Week's Composers: Schubert and Liszt. We hear the latter's Sonata 4 in C major; his Die Pauern Kirchner; and the Sonata for Piano and Cello (Linda Enslin); and the former's D major. 8.20 News. 8.25 Brahms's Hungarian Dance No 1: Boccherini's Cello Concerto in D (Rostropovich/Chamber Orchestra). 8.35 Musician: Bach's (arranged) Bassoon Prelude and Fugue in D. 8.50 News. 8.55 Variations on a theme of Paganini (r). 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composers: Schubert and Liszt. 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